

Trigger Text	Code(s)	Unit Text	Form Letter	Annotation
The proposed delisting is extremely irresponsible, and completely contrary to the scientific evidence available to us. I am counting on ths US Fish and Wildlife service to do the right thing, and stop the proposed desliting before this disasterous proposal goes any farther. You are stpposed to be better than this, you are supposed to be protecting our wild creatures, not opening them up to extinction so that a few hunters can kill 399, 610, and the other bears that Wyoming counts on to draw hundreds of thousands of tourists to our state every year. These bears are worth more to the people of Wyoming, and the surrounding western states, protected and alive, and are worth nothing to us as trophies hanging on some rich hunter's wall. Stop this scientifically unsupported and economically damaging delisting proposal in its tracks, for the the sake of the continued survival of the grizzly bear and the people of Wyoming, many of whom count on tourism to make their living. Please do the right thing, and leave the grizzly bear on the endangered species list .	Data doubts and comments on process	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who can't tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery. There are many wild places for the bears to move into, in order to expand their range, and improve their chances of survival, but the bears will never reach those available spaces if we hunt them the minute they step out of a national park. The proposed delisting is extremely irresponsible, and completely contrary to the scientific evidence available to us. I am counting on ths US Fish and Wildlife service to do the right thing, and stop the proposed desliting before this disasterous proposal goes any farther. You are stpposed to be better than this, you are supposed to be protecting our wild creatures, not opening them up to extinction so that a few hunters can kill 399, 610, and the other bears that Wyoming counts on to draw hundreds of thousands of tourists to our state every year. These bears are worth more to the people of Wyoming, and the surrounding western states, protected and alive, and are worth nothing to us as trophies hanging on some rich hunter's wall. Stop this scientifically unsupported and economically damaging delisting proposal in its tracks, for the the sake of the continued survival of the grizzly bear and the people of Wyoming, many of whom count on tourism to make their living. Please do the right thing, and leave the grizzly bear on the endangered species list.	Sierra Club	
The current wildlife data does not support the delisting of grizzly bears, as their recovery has been small and their ability to continue to increase their numbers has not become stable. All attributes that would lead wildlife authorities to consider a delay in removing a species from the endangered list. The fragile nature of this species and it's importance to the ecosystem warrant the grizzly bear to remain at it's current status as endangered .	Data doubts and comments on process	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to and ensure, not endanger, their true recovery. The current wildlife data does not support the delisting of grizzly bears, as their recovery has been small and their ability to continue to increase their numbers has not become stable. All attributes that would lead wildlife authorities to consider a delay in removing a species from the endangered list. The fragile nature of this species and it's importance to the ecosystem warrant the grizzly bear to remain at it's current status as endangered.	Sierra Club	

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Good wildlife science has produced solid evidence that these Great Bears still need to be fully protected by the Endangered Species Act. That research that has been done and elucidated by Dr. David Mattson. The scientific work done by David is at the cutting edge of science on the status of the griz.	Data doubts and comments on process	April 10, 2016 To: USFWS committee to consider de-listing of grizzly bears from the Endangered Species list From: Howard Christiansen PO Box 6202 Bozeman, MT 59771 The reason to make this comment now is to protect the grizzly bear of Montana and to call attention to the importance of considering how our human values affect these kinds of actions to reduce our stewardship of the wilderness and her residents. We need to include a consideration of our own values and how they affect our decisions that have a critical impact on the species of these wilderness and national park areas. I want to prevent de-listing of griz because I value griz and wilderness. The two need each other and we can only have both if we protect them as one. These thoughts are consistent with my human values. My spirit and the spirits of all of us need wilderness and the many species that are at home in their wilderness. The USFS suggests to all it's employees that they read the book, The Practice of the Wild by Gary Snyder. I have read it and have integrated it into my thoughts. Good wildlife science has produced solid evidence that these Great Bears still need to be fully protected by the Endangered Species Act. That research that has been done and elucidated by Dr. David Mattson. The scientific work done by David is at the cutting edge of science on the status of the griz. So, who am I? I'm a life long Montanan, a scientist, and I've talked to people who have different opinions from my own. I was born in Montana and have lived over 50 years of my life here, with 39 of the last 40 in south central Montana. My great great grandfather came directly from Lillehammer, Norway at 16 years old to homestead near Chinook in 1880. I've backpacked and climbed in 10 different wilderness areas or wilderness protected status areas and 2 national parks of Montana. Of course, all had bears and nearly all had griz. I need griz to be protected and I know, as a master's degree level analytical chemist, how to recognize top notch scientific research. I recognize that the evidence presented by Dr. David Mattson is excellent. You should heed his words now. He says that climate change has so seriously affected the foraging requirements of griz that we cannot effectively even approach an accurate assessment of future climate change affects on their numbers. As a student of atmospheric chemistry and climate science for over 20 years, I know how variable the future of conditions of griz habitats will be. The future affects of climate change have already begun for griz and a large number of other species in our wilderness areas and parks. My personal experience with hunters, guides, a commissioner for the MT Dept of FWP, and a long time USFS employee who writes about grizzlies in Montana and who is highly respected by would be grizzly hunters, tells me that the MTFWP will set up an aggressive grizzly hunt in response to heavy pressure from these groups. They will also placate small Montana towns' residents where the benefits of species protection for wilderness values have not been accepted. In the 8 months I lived in Sheridan, MT in 2013, everyone I discussed wildlife management with was in favor of killing all griz in their hunting districts and neighboring districts. These small town residents do have political power with the MTFWP Dept. and their opinions will carry heavy weight. The opinions so often expressed by these people are old and outdated. They are generated from a value system that places no importance on species protection in general. Human values in rational minds have evolved on this planet to include the protection of diverse species. As one culture of a species concerned with only it's own benefit we nearly killed off all bison and grizzlies in the march west to steal this land from native Americans. We further decimated the existing culture to strengthen our claims. These are the old human values that have not changed much in Montana today. Isn't it time to evolve as a culture in our ability and willingness to live with rather than dominate the wilderness and all her residents. We need to think	Sierra Club	
People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region.	Delisting	Please postpone the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States' most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort, especially with the climate changing as quickly as it is. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, there was a 6% decline last year, and a great uncertainty as the region will warm up over the next several years and their natural habitat will shrink. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. If the bears are delisted, the least the agency could do is to have an annual review and have the states keep detailed records of their hunts impact. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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The bears' naturally slow reproductive rate, loss of key food sources to climate change, and state plans to reduce numbers through methods like trophy hunts, all spell disaster. It's too soon to remove ESA protections for Greater Yellowstone grizzlies!	Delisting	I understand you've recently released a proposal to remove Endangered Species protections from grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone region. These bears are an essential piece of the American West, a wildlife icon that has been integral to the Yellowstone region for centuries. Each year, visitors spend millions in the region, hoping to catch a glimpse of a grizzly, this beautiful and powerful symbol of our wild heritage. And as an apex predator, their presence is crucial to the health of wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone region. Thanks to Endangered Species protections, grizzly bears are making a remarkable recovery after being hunted to the brink of extinction, but they're still vulnerable. Your proposal to delist the grizzly fails to preserve this progress and will reverse it. The bears' naturally slow reproductive rate, loss of key food sources to climate change, and state plans to reduce numbers through methods like trophy hunts, all spell disaster. It's too soon to remove ESA protections for Greater Yellowstone grizzlies! Despite making a comeback, the Greater Yellowstone grizzly population still faces significant challenges for true recovery. The population has barely grown since the early 2000s, and fewer cubs are living to adulthood. Grizzlies also naturally reproduce very slowly; a female only has one or two cubs every few years, so the hunting death of even one female is a significant loss. They are also geographically isolated, a serious threat to the long-term health of the population. Although bears will have some measure of protection within Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, once they range outside the park boundaries, they will be at the mercy of neighboring state management policies. This could effectively prevent bears from connecting with other grizzly populations, further limiting the bears' potential for true recovery. It's critical that you get this right, and this plan isn't right. Changes in the bears' feeding and foraging habits have increased the incidences of bears dying as a result of conflicts with hunters and ranchers. But bears and people can and have peacefully co-existed for centuries. Education and better management are both more effective ways of solving these problems, not a blanket removal of protections, or a trophy hunt. Please retain ESA protections until grizzly bears are truly recovered, take action to protect our iconic wildlife today! Thanks for all you do for western wildlife,	Sierra Club	
I want to prevent de-listing of griz because I value griz and wilderness. The two need each other and we can only have both if we protect them as one. These thoughts are consistent with my human values. My spirit and the spirits of all of us need wilderness and the many species that are at home in their wilderness. The USFS suggests to all it's employees that they read the book, The Practice of the Wild by Gary Snyder. I have read it and have integrated it into my thoughts.	Delisting	April 10, 2016 To: USFWS committee to consider de-listing of grizzly bears from the Endangered Species list From: Howard Christiansen PO Box 6202 Bozeman, MT 59771 The reason to make this comment now is to protect the grizzly bear of Montana and to call attention to the importance of considering how our human values affect these kinds of actions to reduce our stewardship of the wilderness and her residents. We need to include a consideration of our own values and how they affect our decisions that have a critical impact on the species of these wilderness and national park areas. I want to prevent de-listing of griz because I value griz and wilderness. The two need each other and we can only have both if we protect them as one. These thoughts are consistent with my human values. My spirit and the spirits of all of us need wilderness and the many species that are at home in their wilderness. The USFS suggests to all it's employees that they read the book, The Practice of the Wild by Gary Snyder. I have read it and have integrated it into my thoughts. Good wildlife science has produced solid evidence that these Great Bears still need to be fully protected by the Endangered Species Act. That research that has been done and elucidated by Dr. David Mattson. The scientific work done by David is at the cutting edge of science on the status of the griz. So, who am I? I'm a life long Montanan, a scientist, and I've talked to people who have different opinions from my own. I was born in Montana and have lived over 50 years of my life here, with 39 of the last 40 in south central Montana. My great great grandfather came directly from Lillehammer, Norway at 16 years old to homestead near Chinook in 1880. I've backpacked and climbed in 10 different wilderness areas or wilderness protected status areas and 2 national parks of Montana. Of course, all had bears and nearly all had griz. I need griz to be protected and I know, as a master's degree level analytical chemist, how to recognize top notch scientific research. I recognize that the evidence presented by Dr. David Mattson is excellent. You should heed his words now. He says that climate change has so seriously affected the foraging requirements of griz that we cannot effectively even approach an accurate assessment of future climate change affects on their numbers. As a student of atmospheric chemistry and climate science for over 20 years, I know how variable the future of conditions of griz habitats will be. The future affects of climate change have already begun for griz and a large number of other species in our wilderness areas and parks. My personal experience with hunters, guides, a commissioner for the MT Dept of FWP, and a long time USFS employee who writes about grizzlies in Montana and who is highly respected by would be grizzly hunters, tells me that the MTFWP will set up an aggressive grizzly hunt in response to heavy pressure from these groups. They will also placate small Montana towns' residents where the benefits of species protection for wilderness values have not been accepted. In the 8 months I lived in Sheridan, MT in 2013, everyone I discussed wildlife management with was in favor of killing all griz in their hunting districts and neighboring districts. These small town residents do have political power with the MTFWP Dept. and their opinions will carry heavy weight. The opinions so often expressed by these people are old and outdated. They are generated from a value system that places no importance on species protection in general. Human values in rational minds have evolved on this planet to include the protection of diverse species. As one culture of a species concerned with only it's own benefit we nearly killed off all bison and grizzlies in the march west to steal this land from native Americans. We further decimated the existing culture to strengthen our claims. These are the old human values that have not changed much in Montana today. Isn't it time to evolve as a culture in our ability and willingness to live with, rather than dominate, the wilderness and all her residents. We need to think	Sierra Club	

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If we permit the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly, we are saying to the world we don't value our wildlife or the Yellowstone ecosystem enough to keep it intact including its top predator, the Yellowstone grizzly bear.As someone who likes to visit Yellowstone on vacation this loss to our culture, to a healthy ecosystem at Yellowstone, is unacceptable.	Delisting	This is a request to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. Delisting these Yellowstone grizzly bears will undo any gains in their healthy population to date by making them 100% available to hunters in surrounding states. The surrounding states have said they plan to actively implement extensive hunting programs, including trophy hunting. If Greater Yellowstone grizzlies can?t use the little wild land they have left to feed, raise their families and interbreed with other grizzlies, it is likely they will go extinct very soon due to human encroachment: Combined with 1) stalling population growth, 2) lost food sources, 3) higher stress levels, and 4) fewer cubs living to adulthood, current state and federal proposals are a program for steep population decline of Yellowstone Grizzly bears. Top predators in their own ecosystem, Yellowstone grizzly bears are no match for hunters. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies vulnerable to statewide, organized hunting by surrounding states, whice have made it 100% clear of their intentions to eliminate these defenseless bears. It just cannot be stated any more clearly: this current proposal to delist Yellowstone Grizzlies bears will ensure a rapid loss of these bear populations by a confluence of effects: 1) States will be able to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, 2) Female grizzlies will be killed by trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear, 3) reproductive rates will plummet due to less bears of any age, fewer available female bears, fewer cubs, and less frequent survival to breeding age by cubs, 4) Further isolation of the Yellowstone grizzly population from other Grizzly populations will ensure extinction of a viable population. The bears are simply no match for the encircling states proposed vigorous hunting. As scientists we know that top predators are vital to a healthy ecosystem. And we know that fragmented populations go extinct. Small isolated populations are more likely to go extinct: http://faculty.plattsburgh.edu/thomas.wolosz/smallpopulations.htm If we permit the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly, we are saying to the world we don't value our wildlife or the Yellowstone ecosystem enough to keep it intact including its top predator, the Yellowstone grizzly bear. As someone who likes to visit Yellowstone on vacation this loss to our culture, to a healthy ecosystem at Yellowstone, is unacceptable. People and bears can coexist. If the Yellowstone bears are delisted today, it is the first step in a steep slide toward extinction of Yellowstone grizzly bears. I urge you, please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
Yellowstone may become the only place grizzlies can survive Â	Factor A	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. Yellowstone may become the only place grizzlies can survive The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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They are also geographically isolated, a serious threat to the long-term health of the population. Although bears will have some measure of protection within Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, once they range outside the park boundaries, they will be at the mercy of neighboring state management policies. This could effectively prevent bears from connecting with other grizzly populations, further limiting the bears' potential for true recovery. It's critical that you get this right, and this plan isn't right.	Factor A	I understand you've recently released a proposal to remove Endangered Species protections from grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone region. These bears are an essential piece of the American West, a wildlife icon that has been integral to the Yellowstone region for centuries. Each year, visitors spend millions in the region, hoping to catch a glimpse of a grizzly, this beautiful and powerful symbol of our wild heritage. And as an apex predator, their presence is crucial to the health of wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone region. Thanks to Endangered Species protections, grizzly bears are making a remarkable recovery after being hunted to the brink of extinction, but they're still vulnerable. Your proposal to delist the grizzly fails to preserve this progress and will reverse it. The bears' naturally slow reproductive rate, loss of key food sources to climate change, and state plans to reduce numbers through methods like trophy hunts, all spell disaster. It's too soon to remove ESA protections for Greater Yellowstone grizzlies! Despite making a comeback, the Greater Yellowstone grizzly population still faces significant challenges for true recovery. The population has barely grown since the early 2000s, and fewer cubs are living to adulthood. Grizzlies also naturally reproduce very slowly; a female only has one or two cubs every few years, so the hunting death of even one female is a significant loss. They are also geographically isolated, a serious threat to the long-term health of the population. Although bears will have some measure of protection within Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, once they range outside the park boundaries, they will be at the mercy of neighboring state management policies. This could effectively prevent bears from connecting with other grizzly populations, further limiting the bears' potential for true recovery. It's critical that you get this right, and this plan isn't right. Changes in the bears' feeding and foraging habits have increased the incidences of bears dying as a result of conflicts with hunters and ranchers. But bears and people can and have peacefully co-existed for centuries. Education and better management are both more effective ways of solving these problems, not a blanket removal of protections, or a trophy hunt. Please retain ESA protections until grizzly bears are truly recovered, take action to protect our iconic wildlife today! Thanks for all you do for western wildlife,	Sierra Club	
Where are the linkage zones to enable genetic variation? This is an island (yes, a large island) but still an island population . A	Factor A	Another politically motivated call to delist. Why? So some jerk will have another target to shoot at? So F&W can make a few more bucks? Where are the linkage zones to enable genetic variation? This is an island (yes, a large island) but still an island population. I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States' most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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Without doubt, this species still requires human beings to step away from the meagre range we allow them, and also make special protective regions beyond the Parks' borders. All the protections should be kept in place that being on the Endangered Species List provides ! Â	Factor A	The Yellowstone grizzly bear population has grown ever so slowly since recognized as an endangered species, and now there are a mere 700 or so, as of a recent newscast. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list is far too premature to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. The slow increase in grizzly population is does not guarantee more increase at all ! Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, Population growth has been stalled since the early 2000s; and there was a 6% decline last year ! Without doubt, this species still requires human beings to step away from the meagre range we allow them, and also make special protective regions beyond the Parks' borders. All the protections should be kept in place that being on the Endangered Species List provides ! The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies altogether vulnerable once again -- as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We must not let bears be killed and again approach even closer to extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
There are many wild places for the bears to move into, in order to expand their range, and improve their chances of survival, but the bears will never reach those available spaces if we hunt them the minute they step out of a national park. Â	Factor A	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who can't tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery. There are many wild places for the bears to move into, in order to expand their range, and improve their chances of survival, but the bears will never reach those available spaces if we hunt them the minute they step out of a national park. The proposed delisting is extremely irresponsible, and completely contrary to the scientific evidence available to us. I am counting on ths US Fish and Wildlife service to do the right thing, and stop the proposed desliting before this disastrous proposal goes any farther. You are stpossed to be better than this, you are supposed to be protecting our wild creatures, not opening them up to extinction so that a few hunters can kill 399, 610, and the other bears that Wyoming counts on to draw hundreds of thousands of tourists to our state every year. These bears are worth more to the people of Wyoming, and the surrounding western states, protected and alive, and are worth nothing to us as trophies hanging on some rich hunter's wall. Stop this scientifically unsupported and economically damaging delisting proposal in its tracks, for the the sake of the continued survival of the grizzly bear and the people of Wyoming, many of whom count on tourism to make their living. Please do the right thing, and leave the grizzly bear on the endangered species list.	Sierra Club	

Trigger Text	Code(s)	Unit Text	Form Letter	Annotation
The move to delist the Yellowstone grizzly bear population does not take into consideration the attrition building from human development and its growing detrimental impact. It will be a huge mistake to delist the Yellowstone grizzly bear . Â	Factor A	The move to delist the Yellowstone grizzly bear population does not take into consideration the attrition building from human development and its growing detrimental impact. It will be a huge mistake to delist the Yellowstone grizzly bear. I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to and ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
We need to develop a wildlife corridor from Canada to the Wind River mountain range in Wyoming.	Factor A	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. We need to develop a wildlife corridor from Canada to the Wind River mountain range in Wyoming. Delisting grizzly bears is going backwards. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to and ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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If proposed plans are put in place, any areas outside Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks could become grizzly hunting grounds, even in the J.D. Rockefeller Jr. Parkway connecting the parks. This and other grizzly passageways are critical to allow for different bear populations to meet and breed, and create more stable populations. Â	Factor A	The recovery of the Greater Yellowstone Grizzly is one of the west's greatest wildlife success stories, until now. Therefore, I urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. If proposed plans are put in place, any areas outside Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks could become grizzly hunting grounds, even in the J.D. Rockefeller Jr. Parkway connecting the parks. This and other grizzly passageways are critical to allow for different bear populations to meet and breed, and create more stable populations. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. It basic MARKETING not delisting. (I am in the marketing business so I know about this in terms of animal welfare, this is my career!) People and bears CAN coexist. We need to be EDUCATING people with more information and facts. WE humans (an ignorant public) are the true problem. If humans can learn how to better behave in areas with grizzly bear populations and understand the importance of these amazing creatures, coexistence can happen. We can not let bears slide back towards extinction because of public ignorance and misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies, educate the masses, and develop adequate plans to be put in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
Connecting with other populations would increase the genetic diversity of the bear populations and thereby increase the long-term health of the populations.	Factor A	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population from ESA protection. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. Connecting with other populations would increase the genetic diversity of the bear populations and thereby increase the long-term health of the populations. There is another important factor that conservationists are loath to cite: the very success of the conservationists' programs to reintroduce wolves to the Yellowstone area. Wolves, hunting in packs, can successfully compete for prey with bears, which are solitary hunters, and wolf packs can even drive bears away from prey the bears themselves have killed. Bears did, of course, successfully coexist with wolves in a state of nature. However, if bears are protected only in the relatively limited Teton-Yellowstone park area, with no chance to mingle with other bear populations and with any bear wondering off the protected area having to face high-powered rifles and high-tech hunting techniques, that is hardly a "state of nature"! The combined stresses of wolf reintroducion, limited protected area, and allowing hunting outside the parks would surely be detrimental to bear populations, probably drastically so. At the very least, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should wait many more years to see if bears can establish a healthy new equilibrium population competing with wolves and other environmental factors over the limited range available to them even without delisting from the ESA.	Sierra Club	

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Moreover, their habitat is under greater threat than ever, with annual losses in both critical food sources and actual land area. Climate change impacts have decimated large forests (e.g. pine bark beetle, etc.) that provide grizzlies with their primary food source, while continuing development and encroachment onto open spaces and across migratory corridors slashes and fragments habitat even more . Â	Factor A	I am writing to urge you stop the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a small comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. Moreover, their habitat is under greater threat than ever, with annual losses in both critical food sources and actual land area. Climate change impacts have decimated large forests (e.g. pine bark beetle, etc.) that provide grizzlies with their primary food source, while continuing development and encroachment onto open spaces and across migratory corridors slashes and fragments habitat even more. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies into perpetuity, to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
Also, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated, which in itself is already a negative pressure on a genetically robust population. To further limit their range and numbers could exacerbate this, and could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations.	Factor A	I strongly oppose any delisting from Endangered Species Act protection of the Yellowstone Grizzly by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and urge you to postpone delisting. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list not only fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery, but will reverse any gains that have been made. We should act slowly and conservatively in considering removing endangered species protections. While grizzlies have made some progress in population recovery, they still occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 states. They reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years, which means small changes in their circumstances can have large effects on the population. Further, as all species are, the grizzly is suffering the effects of climate change in the loss of key food sources. In the Yellowstone region, population growth has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed delisting threatens this Greater Yellowstone grizzly because it will open the way for states to enact existing plans to reduce the population, including by means of trophy kills. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which, under pressure from ranching interests especially, have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, which could cause potentially irreversible damage to populations and allow eradication of bears in some areas. Hunters may not be able to tell male from female, and the loss of female grizzlies especially could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action could be taken. Also, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated, which in itself is already a negative pressure on a genetically robust population. To further limit their range and numbers could exacerbate this, and could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. We humans don't have the right ? or the perspective ? to "manage" wildlife, and certainly not by hunting or so-called "sport" killing which grizzlies would face if the ESA protections were lifted. Earth evolved its varied species in a self-regulating balance; humans don't have a wide enough view to improve on that and only cause harm when we try. Grizzlies are not only a crucial apex species in their ecosystems, but each is a unique individual born with a right to exist and make his way without fear of being stalked and murdered by cowards with guns. Killing individuals devastates family structures and leaves mates and offspring vulnerable; it also diminishes the genetic diversity needed for healthy populations, which in turn affects all the prey and plant species regulated under healthy keystone predator populations. To in any way permit or encourage hunting of these or any animals is a disgrace and is to share in responsibility for the unconscionable threat and potential loss of this population. In the narrower view, visitors to Yellowstone -- some of whom come to try to see the grizzly in this habitat, while others come to see the habitat upon which the grizzly, as apex predator, has an effect -- spend millions of dollars in the local economy every year. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss to this Yellowstone ecosystem in which they function and a loss to the economy of the local region. Further, delisting would be an insult to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have worked and fought tirelessly to save them. People and bears can coexist -- as we have for millennia. We must not be responsible for threatening the grizzly with extinction by caving to pressure from misguided, anti-scientific ranching and hunting interests. Please continue the Endangered Species Act protection of Yellowstone grizzlies to ensure their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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Isn't it time to evolve as a culture in our ability and willingness to live with, rather than dominate, the wilderness and all her residents. We need to think bigger than just protecting the griz that have been so inaccurately counted by current methods. We need to think of protecting the griz under the Endangered Species Act provisions as endangered and we need to guarantee their future to the best of our abilities. We can be more effective in that goal by creating and protecting (through vigorous enforcement of federal laws) more federally designated wilderness land for them to have contiguous corridors through which they can migrate from one heart habitat to another heart habitat, expanding the diversity of the gene pool. We must protect these magnificent Great Bears and the great wilderness lands they need to continue on as the real icons of our nation rather than watch them become mythical beings.	Factor A	April 10, 2016 To: USFWS committee to consider de-listing of grizzly bears from the Endangered Species list From: Howard Christiansen PO Box 6202 Bozeman, MT 59771 The reason to make this comment now is to protect the grizzly bear of Montana and to call attention to the importance of considering how our human values affect these kinds of actions to reduce our stewardship of the wilderness and her residents. We need to include a consideration of our own values and how they affect our decisions that have a critical impact on the species of these wilderness and national park areas. I want to prevent de-listing of griz because I value griz and wilderness. The two need each other and we can only have both if we protect them as one. These thoughts are consistent with my human values. My spirit and the spirits of all of us need wilderness and the many species that are at home in their wilderness. The USFS suggests to all it's employees that they read the book, The Practice of the Wild by Gary Snyder. I have read it and have integrated it into my thoughts. Good wildlife science has produced solid evidence that these Great Bears still need to be fully protected by the Endangered Species Act. That research that has been done and elucidated by Dr. David Mattson. The scientific work done by David is at the cutting edge of science on the status of the griz. So, who am I? I'm a life long Montanan, a scientist, and I've talked to people who have different opinions from my own. I was born in Montana and have lived over 50 years of my life here, with 39 of the last 40 in south central Montana. My great great grandfather came directly from Lillehammer, Norway at 16 years old to homestead near Chinook in 1880. I've backpacked and climbed in 10 different wilderness areas or wilderness protected status areas and 2 national parks of Montana. Of course, all had bears and nearly all had griz. I need griz to be protected and I know, as a master's degree level analytical chemist, how to recognize top notch scientific research. I recognize that the evidence presented by Dr. David Mattson is excellent. You should heed his words now. He says that climate change has so seriously affected the foraging requirements of griz that we cannot effectively even approach an accurate assessment of future climate change affects on their numbers. As a student of atmospheric chemistry and climate science for over 20 years, I know how variable the future of conditions of griz habitats will be. The future affects of climate change have already begun for griz and a large number of other species in our wilderness areas and parks. My personal experience with hunters, guides, a commissioner for the MT Dept of FWP, and a long time USFS employee who writes about grizzlies in Montana and who is highly respected by would be grizzly hunters, tells me that the MTFWP will set up an aggressive grizzly hunt in response to heavy pressure from these groups. They will also placate small Montana towns' residents where the benefits of species protection for wilderness values have not been accepted. In the 8 months I lived in Sheridan, MT in 2013, everyone I discussed wildlife management with was in favor of killing all griz in their hunting districts and neighboring districts. These small town residents do have political power with the MTFWP Dept. and their opinions will carry heavy weight. The opinions so often expressed by these people are old and outdated. They are generated from a value system that places no importance on species protection in general. Human values in rational minds have evolved on this planet to include the protection of diverse species. As one culture of a species concerned with only it's own benefit we nearly killed off all bison and grizzlies in the march west to steal this land from native Americans. We further decimated the existing culture to strengthen our claims. These are the old human values that have not changed much in Montana today. Isn't it time to evolve as a culture in our ability and willingness to live with, rather than dominate, the wilderness and all her residents. We need to think	Sierra Club	
Delisting of the Yellowstone Bears without insuring protective zones (and species' limits) is not advisable. For example, to ensure healthy genetic survival of the species 'bridges' between habitats, specifically the Rockefeller Parkway 'bridging' Yellowstone and the Ketones is an essential link to health genetic survival.Please 'do no harm' to those unable to protect themselves and protect the Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Factor A	Delisting of the Yellowstone Bears without insuring protective zones (and species' limits) is not advisable. For example, to ensure healthy genetic survival of the species 'bridges' between habitats, specifically the Rockefeller Parkway 'bridging' Yellowstone and the Ketones is an essential link to health genetic survival. Please 'do no harm' to those unable to protect themselves and protect the Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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It is essential to an isolated population and far ranging species like the Yellowstone NP bears that they have genetic connectivity up the Bitterroots to Canada and back in order to be a viable population. Hunting will truncate this genetic connectivity . Â	Factor A	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. It is essential to an isolated population and far ranging species like the Yellowstone NP bears that they have genetic connectivity up the Bitterroots to Canada and back in order to be a viable population. Hunting will truncate this genetic connectivity. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who can't tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
What is needed is continuing rigorous protection of grizzly bears in the hope that currently isolated populations will slowly expand and make contact with one another. Only federal protection can provide any hope that this might happen.	Factor A	I am strongly opposed to this proposal. It is not supported by the best available science with regard to grizzly bear populations and is (another) complete abdication of USFWS responsibility to protect threatened and endangered species. Grizzly populations in the northern Rockies are all small, isolated and facing many threats that are likely to increase over time. One might make a case that the bears in the immediate Yellowstone area are doing okay, but it has hardly increased in the past decade, faces serious challenges brought on by climate change, and human-induced mortality continues to be high. The species itself now occupies only a tiny fraction of its former range. What is needed is continuing rigorous protection of grizzly bears in the hope that currently isolated populations will slowly expand and make contact with one another. Only federal protection can provide any hope that this might happen. To propose turning management of this species over to the states is ludicrous. The result will be another debacle like what has happened with the gray wolf. Do you really want that? Is it appropriate to have trophy hunting of an apex predator with a reproductive rate like that of the grizzly? Given the irrational anti-predator mania that currently grips all of the states in the northern Rockies, to contemplate handing over protection and management of grizzly bears to them would be nothing less than criminally irresponsible. Please pay attention to what the biology tells you and act responsibly in this matter. Kenneth P. Able McArthur, California	Sierra Club	

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The bears' naturally slow reproductive rate, loss of key food sources to climate change, and state plans to reduce numbers through methods like trophy hunts, all spell disaster. It's too soon to remove ESA protections for Greater Yellowstone grizzlies!	Factor B	I understand you've recently released a proposal to remove Endangered Species protections from grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone region. These bears are an essential piece of the American West, a wildlife icon that has been integral to the Yellowstone region for centuries. Each year, visitors spend millions in the region, hoping to catch a glimpse of a grizzly, this beautiful and powerful symbol of our wild heritage. And as an apex predator, their presence is crucial to the health of wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone region. Thanks to Endangered Species protections, grizzly bears are making a remarkable recovery after being hunted to the brink of extinction, but they're still vulnerable. Your proposal to delist the grizzly fails to preserve this progress and will reverse it. The bears' naturally slow reproductive rate, loss of key food sources to climate change, and state plans to reduce numbers through methods like trophy hunts, all spell disaster. It's too soon to remove ESA protections for Greater Yellowstone grizzlies! Despite making a comeback, the Greater Yellowstone grizzly population still faces significant challenges for true recovery. The population has barely grown since the early 2000s, and fewer cubs are living to adulthood. Grizzlies also naturally reproduce very slowly; a female only has one or two cubs every few years, so the hunting death of even one female is a significant loss. They are also geographically isolated, a serious threat to the long-term health of the population. Although bears will have some measure of protection within Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, once they range outside the park boundaries, they will be at the mercy of neighboring state management policies. This could effectively prevent bears from connecting with other grizzly populations, further limiting the bears' potential for true recovery. It's critical that you get this right, and this plan isn't right. Changes in the bears' feeding and foraging habits have increased the incidences of bears dying as a result of conflicts with hunters and ranchers. But bears and people can and have peacefully co-existed for centuries. Education and better management are both more effective ways of solving these problems, not a blanket removal of protections, or a trophy hunt. Please retain ESA protections until grizzly bears are truly recovered, take action to protect our iconic wildlife today! Thanks for all you do for western wildlife,	Sierra Club	
The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. If the bears are delisted, the least the agency could do is to have an annual review and have the states keep detailed records of their hunts impact.	Factor B	Please postpone the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States' most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort, especially with the climate changing as quickly as it is. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, there was a 6% decline last year, and a great uncertainty as the region will warm up over the next several years and their natural habitat will shrink. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. If the bears are delisted, the least the agency could do is to have an annual review and have the states keep detailed records of their hunts impact. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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If proposed plans are put in place, any areas outside Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks could become grizzly hunting grounds, even in the J.D. Rockefeller Jr. Parkway connecting the parks. This and other grizzly passageways are critical to allow for different bear populations to meet and breed, and create more stable populations. Â	Factor B	The recovery of the Greater Yellowstone Grizzly is one of the west's greatest wildlife success stories, until now. Therefore, I urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States' most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. If proposed plans are put in place, any areas outside Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks could become grizzly hunting grounds, even in the J.D. Rockefeller Jr. Parkway connecting the parks. This and other grizzly passageways are critical to allow for different bear populations to meet and breed, and create more stable populations. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. It basic MARKETING not delisting. (I am in the marketing business so I know about this in terms of animal welfare, this is my career!) People and bears CAN coexist. We need to be EDUCATING people with more information and facts. WE humans (an ignorant public) are the true problem. If humans can learn how to better behave in areas with grizzly bear populations and understand the importance of these amazing creatures, coexistence can happen. We can not let bears slide back towards extinction because of public ignorance and misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies, educate the masses, and develop adequate plans to be put in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
Considering the near zero tolerance level towards predators, omnivore or carnivore, (wolves as an example) that states like Idaho has, it is far too early to consider removing the Grizzly bear from a threatened status and allow the animal to be hunted. I don't have a problem with ethical substance hunting, but I do not believe some wildlife agencies will manage the bears in a way that will maintain the sustainability of this specific species.	Factor B	The grizzly has the second slowest reproduction rate of all North American mammals, making it harder for it to rebound from threats to its survival. Females do not reach breeding maturity until they are 4 to 9 years old and generally give birth to two cubs every 3 years. On occasion, one or three cubs may be born to a female, but two is the more common number. Cubs remain dependent upon their mother's milk for almost a year, stay with their mother for 2 to 3 years, and reach breeding maturity at about five years. In some cases they may not breed until 8 or 9 years of age. When they do reach breeding age, females only breed every 3 or more years. (Brown Bear .org) Considering the near zero tolerance level towards predators, omnivore or carnivore, (wolves as an example) that states like Idaho has, it is far too early to consider removing the Grizzly bear from a threatened status and allow the animal to be hunted. I don't have a problem with ethical substance hunting, but I do not believe some wildlife agencies will manage the bears in a way that will maintain the sustainability of this specific species. ~ Steve Clevidence/Montana	Sierra Club	

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Plus bears suffer fairly low mortality in the absence of human control and hunting. Thus hunting mortality is not compensatory as it might be in elk. It is usually additive. Â	Factor B	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. As an ecologist who has studied predator ecology and done ecological studies of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, I can say without a doubt that this delisting is way premature. Grizzly numbers still have not reached the number considered safe by many population ecologist. The important issue is effective breeding population and genetic diversity. With small populations bears are more vulnerable to decline, and since one dominant male may sire many offspring, the genetic diversity in any population is much smaller than just numbers. Furthermore, state wildlife agencies across the West have demonstrated they are incapable of managing predators--wolves, cougars, or bears. They have an inherent bias against predators. They ignore the social ecology of these animals, and its effects on behavior. For instance it is well established that disruption of social ecology of cougar as well as wolves leads to more human conflicts as the population is shifted to younger animals. Plus bears suffer fairly low mortality in the absence of human control and hunting. Thus hunting mortality is not compensatory as it might be in elk. It is usually additive. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
Grizzlies are not only a crucial apex species in their ecosystems, but each is a unique individual born with a right to exist and make his way without fear of being stalked and murdered by cowards with guns. Killing individuals devastates family structures and leaves mates and offspring vulnerable; it also diminishes the genetic diversity needed for healthy populations, which in turn affects all the prey and plant species regulated under healthy keystone predator populations. To in any way permit or encourage hunting of these or any animals is a disgrace and is to share in responsibility for the unconscionable threat and potential loss of this population.	Factor B	I strongly oppose any delisting from Endangered Species Act protection of the Yellowstone Grizzly by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and urge you to postpone delisting. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list not only fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery, but will reverse any gains that have been made. We should act slowly and conservatively in considering removing endangered species protections. While grizzlies have made some progress in population recovery, they still occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 states. They reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years, which means small changes in their circumstances can have large effects on the population. Further, as all species are, the grizzly is suffering the effects of climate change in the loss of key food sources. In the Yellowstone region, population growth has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed delisting threatens this Greater Yellowstone grizzly because it will open the way for states to enact existing plans to reduce the population, including by means of trophy kills. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which, under pressure from ranching interests especially, have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, which could cause potentially irreversible damage to populations and allow eradication of bears in some areas. Hunters may not be able to tell male from female, and the loss of female grizzlies especially could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action could be taken. Also, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated, which in itself is already a negative pressure on a genetically robust population. To further limit their range and numbers could exacerbate this, and could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. We humans don't have the right ? or the perspective ? to "manage" wildlife, and certainly not by hunting or so-called "sport" killing which grizzlies would face if the ESA protections were lifted. Earth evolved its varied species in a self-regulating balance; humans don't have a wide enough view to improve on that and only cause harm when we try. Grizzlies are not only a crucial apex species in their ecosystems, but each is a unique individual born with a right to exist and make his way without fear of being stalked and murdered by cowards with guns. Killing individuals devastates family structures and leaves mates and offspring vulnerable; it also diminishes the genetic diversity needed for healthy populations, which in turn affects all the prey and plant species regulated under healthy keystone predator populations. To in any way permit or encourage hunting of these or any animals is a disgrace and is to share in responsibility for the unconscionable threat and potential loss of this population. In the narrower view, visitors to Yellowstone -- some of whom come to try to see the grizzly in this habitat, while others come to see the habitat upon which the grizzly, as apex predator, has an effect -- spend millions of dollars in the local economy every year. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss to this Yellowstone ecosystem in which they function and a loss to the economy of the local region. Further, delisting would be an insult to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have worked and fought tirelessly to save them. People and bears can coexist -- as we have for millennia. We must not be responsible for threatening the grizzly with extinction by caving to pressure from misguided, anti-scientific ranching and hunting interests. Please continue the Endangered Species Act protection of Yellowstone grizzlies to ensure their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies vulnerable to statewide, organized hunting by surrounding states, whice have made it 100% clear of their intentions to eliminate these defenseless bears.It just cannot be stated any more clearly: this current proposal to delist Yellowstone Grizzlies bears will ensure a rapid loss of these bear populations by a confluence of effects:1) States will be able to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, 2) Female grizzlies will be killed by trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear,3) reproductive rates will plummet due to less bears of any age, fewer available female bears, fewer cubs, and less frequent survival to breeding age by cubs,4) Further isolation of the Yellowstone grizzly population from other Grizzly populations will ensure extinction of a viable population.	Factor B	This is a request to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. Delisting these Yellowstone grizzly bears will undo any gains in their healthy population to date by making them 100% available to hunters in surrounding states. The surrounding states have said they plan to actively implement extensive hunting programs, including trophy hunting. If Greater Yellowstone grizzlies can?t use the little wild land they have left to feed, raise their families and interbreed with other grizzlies, it is likely they will go extinct very soon due to human encroachment: Combined with 1) stalling population growth, 2) lost food sources, 3) higher stress levels, and 4) fewer cubs living to adulthood, current state and federal proposals are a program for steep population decline of Yellowstone Grizzly bears. Top predators in their own ecosystem, Yellowstone grizzly bears are no match for hunters. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies vulnerable to statewide, organized hunting by surrounding states, whice have made it 100% clear of their intentions to eliminate these defenseless bears. It just cannot be stated any more clearly: this current proposal to delist Yellowstone Grizzlies bears will ensure a rapid loss of these bear populations by a confluence of effects: 1) States will be able to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, 2) Female grizzlies will be killed by trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear, 3) reproductive rates will plummet due to less bears of any age, fewer available female bears, fewer cubs, and less frequent survival to breeding age by cubs, 4) Further isolation of the Yellowstone grizzly population from other Grizzly populations will ensure extinction of a viable population. The bears are simply no match for the encircling states proposed vigorous hunting. As scientists we know that top predators are vital to a healthy ecosystem. And we know that fragmented populations go extinct. Small isolated populations are more likely to go extinct: http://faculty.plattsburgh.edu/thomas.wolosz/smallpopulations.htm If we permit the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly, we are saying to the world we don't value our wildlife or the Yellowstone ecosystem enough to keep it intact including its top predator, the Yellowstone grizzly bear. As someone who likes to visit Yellowstone on vacation this loss to our culture, to a healthy ecosystem at Yellowstone, is unacceptable. People and bears can coexist. If the Yellowstone bears are delisted today, it is the first step in a steep slide toward extinction of Yellowstone grizzly bears. I urge you, please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
And the state plans waiting in the wings will greatly endanger every bear who roams outside park boundaries, which will not only have a steep impact on bear numbers directly, but over time causes the population to become a genetic bottleneck, further reducing its viability.	Factor B	While the Greater Yellowstone grizzly population may appear to have sufficient numbers at this time to be considered recovered, there are particular concerns about this population that make this a poor time to remove any protections from them. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly, having no access to the salmon that make up such a large part of the coastal grizzly's diet, are unusually dependent on such food sources as the whitebark pine, which as you know has been devastated in many areas by blister rust and the pine beetle. Not only has this greatly reduced this crop this crop in the bear's diet, but has forced them in many cases to scavenge more in human-inhabited areas, bringing them into deadly situations where they are so often the losers. With the many threats to our forests that have been intensified by climate change, there will continue to be unpredictable effects that may well further deplete this resource and its usefulness to species that depend on it. This is likely to result in more female bears who are unable to gain sufficient weight before denning and therefore cannot successfully carry a pregnancy, which further reduces the already low number of cubs likely to be born in any given year. And the state plans waiting in the wings will greatly endanger every bear who roams outside park boundaries, which will not only have a steep impact on bear numbers directly, but over time causes the population to become a genetic bottleneck, further reducing its viability. There are many reasons not to delist the grizzly at this time, and together their weight is far greater than that of the misinformation and misdirected hostility of those who are unwilling to consider better bear management plans as a way for humans and grizzlies to share space. I strongly urge you to scrap any plans to delist the Greater Yellowstone grizzly at this time. A poor idea with a lot of political support is still a poor idea.	Sierra Club	

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The thought of people blasting away at grizzlies in some kind of sick sport hunt just makes me ill. Each bear killed is one less that people can enjoy over and over again, and one less to contribute to the recovery of the population. Â	Factor B	I am writing to demand that you postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. This is not the time to take away the meager protections that grizzly bears enjoy in Greater Yellowstone. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. I make my living partly from showing people LIVE grizzly bears in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, and elsewhere. There is nothing like watching someone experience their first grizzly bear sighting. It is truly a lifetime experience, and Greater Yellowstone is one of the best places to see and learn about these magnificent animals. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire world, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. I personally have worked for 30 years to help keep the grizzly bear secure and to assure their small numbers continue to grow. We are on the brink now with this population and cannot afford to start letting them disappear again. Two of the crucial food sources for grizzlies are in danger: Whitebark pine is functionally extinct, and cutthroat trout are in deep decline. In additional, hundreds of bison are killed and exported from the ecosystem every year, essentially strip mining protein which could feed hundreds of bears. This forces bears to eat more elk and probably more livestock, bringing them into much higher risk of conflict with armed humans. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. A breeding female may take ten years just to replace herself with one breeding offspring. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the grizzly population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The thought of people blasting away at grizzlies in some kind of sick sport hunt just makes me ill. Each bear killed is one less that people can enjoy over and over again, and one less to contribute to the recovery of the population. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. This is inexcusable and smacks of poor, short sighted management. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations, which is supposed to be one of the goals of federal recovery. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
Changes in the bears' feeding and foraging habits have increased the incidences of bears dying as a result of conflicts with hunters and ranchers. But bears and people can and have peacefully co-existed for centuries. Education and better management are both more effective ways of solving these problems, not a blanket removal of protections, or a trophy hunt. Please retain ESA protections until grizzly bears are truly recovered, take action to protect our iconic wildlife today!	Factor C	I understand you've recently released a proposal to remove Endangered Species protections from grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone region. These bears are an essential piece of the American West, a wildlife icon that has been integral to the Yellowstone region for centuries. Each year, visitors spend millions in the region, hoping to catch a glimpse of a grizzly, this beautiful and powerful symbol of our wild heritage. And as an apex predator, their presence is crucial to the health of wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone region. Thanks to Endangered Species protections, grizzly bears are making a remarkable recovery after being hunted to the brink of extinction, but they're still vulnerable. Your proposal to delist the grizzly fails to preserve this progress and will reverse it. The bears' naturally slow reproductive rate, loss of key food sources to climate change, and state plans to reduce numbers through methods like trophy hunts, all spell disaster. It's too soon to remove ESA protections for Greater Yellowstone grizzlies! Despite making a comeback, the Greater Yellowstone grizzly population still faces significant challenges for true recovery. The population has barely grown since the early 2000s, and fewer cubs are living to adulthood. Grizzlies also naturally reproduce very slowly; a female only has one or two cubs every few years, so the hunting death of even one female is a significant loss. They are also geographically isolated, a serious threat to the long-term health of the population. Although bears will have some measure of protection within Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, once they range outside the park boundaries, they will be at the mercy of neighboring state management policies. This could effectively prevent bears from connecting with other grizzly populations, further limiting the bears' potential for true recovery. It's critical that you get this right, and this plan isn't right. Changes in the bears' feeding and foraging habits have increased the incidences of bears dying as a result of conflicts with hunters and ranchers. But bears and people can and have peacefully co-existed for centuries. Education and better management are both more effective ways of solving these problems, not a blanket removal of protections, or a trophy hunt. Please retain ESA protections until grizzly bears are truly recovered, take action to protect our iconic wildlife today! Thanks for all you do for western wildlife,	Sierra Club	

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It basic MARKETING not delisting. (I am in the marketing business so I know about this in terms of animal welfare, this is my career !) People and bears CAN coexist. We need to be EDUCATING people with more information and facts. WE humans (an ignorant public) are the true problem. If humans can learn how to better behave in areas with grizzly bear populations and understand the importance of these amazing creatures, coexistence can happen. We can not let bears slide back towards extinction because of public ignorance and misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region . Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies, educate the masses, and develop adequate plans to be put in place at the state level to x ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Factor C	The recovery of the Greater Yellowstone Grizzly is one of the west's greatest wildlife success stories, until now. Therefore, I urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. If proposed plans are put in place, any areas outside Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks could become grizzly hunting grounds, even in the J.D. Rockefeller Jr. Parkway connecting the parks. This and other grizzly passageways are critical to allow for different bear populations to meet and breed, and create more stable populations. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. It basic MARKETING not delisting. (I am in the marketing business so I know about this in terms of animal welfare, this is my career!) People and bears CAN coexist. We need to be EDUCATING people with more information and facts. WE humans (an ignorant public) are the true problem. If humans can learn how to better behave in areas with grizzly bear populations and understand the importance of these amazing creatures, coexistence can happen. We can not let bears slide back towards extinction because of public ignorance and misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies, educate the masses, and develop adequate plans to be put in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
There is another important factor that conservationists are loath to cite: the very success of the conservationists' programs to reintroduce wolves to the Yellowstone area. Wolves, hunting in packs, can successfully compete for prey with bears, which are solitary hunters, and wolf packs can even drive bears away from prey the bears themselves have killed. Bears did, of course, successfully coexist with wolves in a state of nature. However, if bears are protected only in the relatively limited Teton-Yellowstone park area, with no chance to mingle with other bear populations and with any bear wondering off the protected area having to face high-powered rifles and high-tech hunting techniques, that is hardly a "state of nature"! The combined stresses of wolf reintroduction, limited protected area, and allowing hunting outside the parks would surely be detrimental to bear populations, probably drastically so.At the very least, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should wait many more years to see if bears can establish a healthy new equilibrium population competing with wolves and other environmental factors over the limited range available to them even without delisting from the ESA.	Factor C	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population from ESA protection. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. Connecting with other populations would increase the genetic diversity of the bear populations and thereby increase the long-term health of the populations. There is another important factor that conservationists are loath to cite: the very success of the conservationists' programs to reintroduce wolves to the Yellowstone area. Wolves, hunting in packs, can successfully compete for prey with bears, which are solitary hunters, and wolf packs can even drive bears away from prey the bears themselves have killed. Bears did, of course, successfully coexist with wolves in a state of nature. However, if bears are protected only in the relatively limited Teton-Yellowstone park area, with no chance to mingle with other bear populations and with any bear wondering off the protected area having to face high-powered rifles and high-tech hunting techniques, that is hardly a "state of nature"! The combined stresses of wolf reintroducion, limited protected area, and allowing hunting outside the parks would surely be detrimental to bear populations, probably drastically so. At the very least, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should wait many more years to see if bears can establish a healthy new equilibrium population competing with wolves and other environmental factors over the limited range available to them even without delisting from the ESA.	Sierra Club	

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Until grizzly bears are truly recovered, we need to protect our iconic wildlife. Â Changes in the bears' feeding and foraging habits have increased the incidences of bears dying as a result of conflicts with hunters and ranchers. But bears and people can and have peacefully co-existed for centuries. Education and better management are both more effective ways of solving these problems, not a blanket removal of protections, or a trophy hunt .	Factor C	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. Until grizzly bears are truly recovered, we need to protect our iconic wildlife. Changes in the bears' feeding and foraging habits have increased the incidences of bears dying as a result of conflicts with hunters and ranchers. But bears and people can and have peacefully co-existed for centuries. Education and better management are both more effective ways of solving these problems, not a blanket removal of protections, or a trophy hunt. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to and ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Factor D	Please postpone the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States' most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort, especially with the climate changing as quickly as it is. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, there was a 6% decline last year, and a great uncertainty as the region will warm up over the next several years and their natural habitat will shrink. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. If the bears are delisted, the least the agency could do is to have an annual review and have the states keep detailed records of their hunts impact. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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great uncertainty as the region will warm up over the next several years and their natural habitat will shrink.	Factor E	Please postpone the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States' most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort, especially with the climate changing as quickly as it is. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, there was a 6% decline last year, and a great uncertainty as the region will warm up over the next several years and their natural habitat will shrink. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. If the bears are delisted, the least the agency could do is to have an annual review and have the states keep detailed records of their hunts impact. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
The bears' naturally slow reproductive rate, loss of key food sources to climate change, and state plans to reduce numbers through methods like trophy hunts, all spell disaster. It's too soon to remove ESA protections for Greater Yellowstone grizzlies!	Factor E	I understand you've recently released a proposal to remove Endangered Species protections from grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone region. These bears are an essential piece of the American West, a wildlife icon that has been integral to the Yellowstone region for centuries. Each year, visitors spend millions in the region, hoping to catch a glimpse of a grizzly, this beautiful and powerful symbol of our wild heritage. And as an apex predator, their presence is crucial to the health of wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone region. Thanks to Endangered Species protections, grizzly bears are making a remarkable recovery after being hunted to the brink of extinction, but they're still vulnerable. Your proposal to delist the grizzly fails to preserve this progress and will reverse it. The bears' naturally slow reproductive rate, loss of key food sources to climate change, and state plans to reduce numbers through methods like trophy hunts, all spell disaster. It's too soon to remove ESA protections for Greater Yellowstone grizzlies! Despite making a comeback, the Greater Yellowstone grizzly population still faces significant challenges for true recovery. The population has barely grown since the early 2000s, and fewer cubs are living to adulthood. Grizzlies also naturally reproduce very slowly; a female only has one or two cubs every few years, so the hunting death of even one female is a significant loss. They are also geographically isolated, a serious threat to the long-term health of the population. Although bears will have some measure of protection within Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, once they range outside the park boundaries, they will be at the mercy of neighboring state management policies. This could effectively prevent bears from connecting with other grizzly populations, further limiting the bears' potential for true recovery. It's critical that you get this right, and this plan isn't right. Changes in the bears' feeding and foraging habits have increased the incidences of bears dying as a result of conflicts with hunters and ranchers. But bears and people can and have peacefully co-existed for centuries. Education and better management are both more effective ways of solving these problems, not a blanket removal of protections, or a trophy hunt. Please retain ESA protections until grizzly bears are truly recovered, take action to protect our iconic wildlife today! Thanks for all you do for western wildlife,	Sierra Club	

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Besides, until we can really calculate the fallout from climate change, I say, don't mess with the status. It's not just the pines dying, it's the moths too, that grizzlies count on and with the cold zone going farther and farther up the mountains, the moth zone is rapidly diminishing. Grizzlies count on eating these moths as a big part of their fat storage. Â So please don't delist them. Trophy hunters are sick people in need of something real to do. Give them something related to helping us get out of this climate disaster we have uploaded on ourselves. Not shooting grizzlies. Â	Factor E	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery. Besides, until we can really calculate the fallout from climate change, I say, don't mess with the status. It's not just the pines dying, it's the moths too, that grizzlies count on and with the cold zone going farther and farther up the mountains, the moth zone is rapidly diminishing. Grizzlies count on eating these moths as a big part of their fat storage. So please don't delist them. Trophy hunters are sick people in need of something real to do. Give them something related to helping us get out of this climate disaster we have uploaded on ourselves. Not shooting grizzlies. Thank you.	Sierra Club	
The result of this isolation will inevitably lead to inbreeding, resulting in a less healthy population. Â	Factor E	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the significant progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. The grizzly is a top predator and as such is crucial to the areas in which it lives. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. This makes the proposed removal of endangered species protection an even more misguided decision. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. The result of this isolation will inevitably lead to inbreeding, resulting in a less healthy population. We know that people and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility in some places towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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There are and will be greater environmental pressures on the ecosystems of these grizzlies and other species of the area as weather and climate changes are more dramatic and water is less available . Â	Factor E	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who can't tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery. There are and will be greater environmental pressures on the ecosystems of these grizzlies and other species of the area as weather and climate changes are more dramatic and water is less available.	Sierra Club	
This would in turn damage the remaining populations by limiting their genetic diversity	Factor E	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. This would in turn damage the remaining populations by limiting their genetic diversity. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to and ensure, not endanger, their true recovery. Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.	Sierra Club	

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I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. Has the proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list taken into consideration the current impact of climate change on the grizzly bears in Alaska - once considered our fall-back grizzly bear supply? Seems to me that U.S. F&W should be all the more cautious about the grizzly bears we have in the Lower 48 because not even the scientists know all the changes happening now, and coming, to our wild animals and plants they feed on. As it's been said, "Our National Parks (and their animals & plants, etc) are the best idea America ever had." Don't blow it now. Preserve and protect!	Factor E	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. Has the proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list taken into consideration the current impact of climate change on the grizzly bears in Alaska - once considered our fall-back grizzly bear supply? Seems to me that U.S. F&W should be all the more cautious about the grizzly bears we have in the Lower 48 because not even the scientists know all the changes happening now, and coming, to our wild animals and plants they feed on. As it's been said, "Our National Parks (and their animals & plants, etc) are the best idea America ever had." Don't blow it now. Preserve and protect!	Sierra Club	
Yellowstone grizzlies are being threatened by the loss of a major food source, White Bark pine nuts, due to global climate change. For this reason they need to expand their territory throughout the greater Yellowstone region and beyond. We need other populations of Grizzlies and connecting corridors between populations to avoid genetic degradation of this outstanding species and cultural icon .	Factor E	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who can't tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. Yellowstone grizzlies are being threatened by the loss of a major food source, White Bark pine nuts, due to global climate change. For this reason they need to expand their territory throughout the greater Yellowstone region and beyond. We need other populations of Grizzlies and connecting corridors between populations to avoid genetic degradation of this outstanding species and cultural icon. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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With climate change, foraging habits, preferred routes and feeding areas may change. Please don't limit grizzly protection as Grizzlies Don't Read Maps . Â	Factor E	With climate change, foraging habits, preferred routes and feeding areas may change. Please don't limit grizzly protection as Grizzlies Don't Read Maps. I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States' most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to and ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
Moreover, their habitat is under greater threat than ever, with annual losses in both critical food sources and actual land area. Climate change impacts have decimated large forests (e.g. pine bark beetle, etc.) that provide grizzlies with their primary food source, while continuing development and encroachment onto open spaces and across migratory corridors slashes and fragments habitat even more . Â	Factor E	I am writing to urge you stop the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States' most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a small comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. Moreover, their habitat is under greater threat than ever, with annual losses in both critical food sources and actual land area. Climate change impacts have decimated large forests (e.g. pine bark beetle, etc.) that provide grizzlies with their primary food source, while continuing development and encroachment onto open spaces and across migratory corridors slashes and fragments habitat even more. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies into perpetuity, to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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As an ecologist who has studied predator ecology and done ecological studies of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, I can say without a doubt that this delisting is way premature. Grizzly numbers still have not reached the number considered safe by many population ecologist. The important issue is effective breeding population and genetic diversity. With small populations bears are more vulnerable to decline, and since one dominant male may sire many offspring, the genetic diversity in any population is much smaller than just numbers. Å	Factor E	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. As an ecologist who has studied predator ecology and done ecological studies of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, I can say without a doubt that this delisting is way premature. Grizzly numbers still have not reached the number considered safe by many population ecologist. The important issue is effective breeding population and genetic diversity. With small populations bears are more vulnerable to decline, and since one dominant male may sire many offspring, the genetic diversity in any population is much smaller than just numbers. Furthermore, state wildlife agencies across the West have demonstrated they are incapable of managing predators--wolves, cougars, or bears. They have an inherent bias against predators. They ignore the social ecology of these animals, and its effects on behavior. For instance it is well established that disruption of social ecology of cougar as well as wolves leads to more human conflicts as the population is shifted to younger animals. Plus bears suffer fairly low mortality in the absence of human control and hunting. Thus hunting mortality is not compensatory as it might be in elk. It is usually additive. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
I need griz to be protected and I know, as a master's degree level analytical chemist, how to recognize top notch scientific research. I recognize that the evidence presented by Dr. David Mattson is excellent. You should heed his words now. He says that climate change has so seriously affected the foraging requirements of griz that we cannot effectively even approach an accurate assessment of future climate change affects on their numbers. As a student of atmospheric chemistry and climate science for over 20 years, I know how variable the future of conditions of griz habitats will be. The future affects of climate change have already begun for griz and a large number of other species in our wilderness areas and parks.	Factor E	April 10, 2016 To: USFWS committee to consider de-listing of grizzly bears from the Endangered Species list From: Howard Christiansen PO Box 6202 Bozeman, MT 59771 The reason to make this comment now is to protect the grizzly bear of Montana and to call attention to the importance of considering how our human values affect these kinds of actions to reduce our stewardship of the wilderness and her residents. We need to include a consideration of our own values and how they affect our decisions that have a critical impact on the species of these wilderness and national park areas. I want to prevent de-listing of griz because I value griz and wilderness. The two need each other and we can only have both if we protect them as one. These thoughts are consistent with my human values. My spirit and the spirits of all of us need wilderness and the many species that are at home in their wilderness. The USFS suggests to all it's employees that they read the book, The Practice of the Wild by Gary Snyder. I have read it and have integrated it into my thoughts. Good wildlife science has produced solid evidence that these Great Bears still need to be fully protected by the Endangered Species Act. That research that has been done and elucidated by Dr. David Mattson. The scientific work done by David is at the cutting edge of science on the status of the griz. So, who am I? I'm a life long Montanan, a scientist, and I've talked to people who have different opinions from my own. I was born in Montana and have lived over 50 years of my life here, with 39 of the last 40 in south central Montana. My great great grandfather came directly from Lillehammer, Norway at 16 years old to homestead near Chinook in 1880. I've backpacked and climbed in 10 different wilderness areas or wilderness protected status areas and 2 national parks of Montana. Of course, all had bears and nearly all had griz. I need griz to be protected and I know, as a master's degree level analytical chemist, how to recognize top notch scientific research. I recognize that the evidence presented by Dr. David Mattson is excellent. You should heed his words now. He says that climate change has so seriously affected the foraging requirements of griz that we cannot effectively even approach an accurate assessment of future climate change affects on their numbers. As a student of atmospheric chemistry and climate science for over 20 years, I know how variable the future of conditions of griz habitats will be. The future affects of climate change have already begun for griz and a large number of other species in our wilderness areas and parks. My personal experience with hunters, guides, a commissioner for the MT Dept of FWP, and a long time USFS employee who writes about grizzlies in Montana and who is highly respected by would be grizzly hunters, tells me that the MTFWP will set up an aggressive grizzly hunt in response to heavy pressure from these groups. They will also placate small Montana towns' residents where the benefits of species protection for wilderness values have not been accepted. In the 8 months I lived in Sheridan, MT in 2013, everyone I discussed wildlife management with was in favor of killing all griz in their hunting districts and neighboring districts. These small town residents do have political power with the MTFWP Dept. and their opinions will carry heavy weight. The opinions so often expressed by these people are old and outdated. They are generated from a value system that places no importance on species protection in general. Human values in rational minds have evolved on this planet to include the protection of diverse species. As one culture of a species concerned with only it's own benefit we nearly killed off all bison and grizzlies in the march west to steal this land from native Americans. We further decimated the existing culture to strengthen our claims. These are the old human values that have not changed much in Montana today. Isn't it time to evolve as a culture in our ability and willingness to live with, rather than dominate, the wilderness and all her residents. We need to think	Sierra Club	

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My family has gone to Yellowstone every 15 years for the past 75 years. Five hundred individuals is to low to maintain a population for a certain ecosystem without inbreeding and gene vulnerability being a problem. these should stay over 1000 if they are now at 1,500 and once were 50,000 strong . I would hate to see this population be extricated due to stress from climate change reducing the conifer seeds and a population with limited genetics falling prey to disease which would leave America's greatest park without it's major icon and a great loss for these ecosystems in general. Â	Factor E	My family has gone to Yellowstone every 15 years for the past 75 years. Five hundred individuals is to low to maintain a population for a certain ecosystem without inbreeding and gene vulnerability being a problem. these should stay over 1000 if they are now at 1,500 and once were 50,000 strong. I would hate to see this population be extricated due to stress from climate change reducing the conifer seeds and a population with limited genetics falling prey to disease which would leave America's greatest park without it's major icon and a great loss for these ecosystems in general. I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to and ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
It is essential to an isolated population and far ranging species like the Yellowstone NP bears that they have genetic connectivity up the Bitterroots to Canada and back in order to be a viable population. Hunting will truncate this genetic connectivity . Â	Factor E	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. It is essential to an isolated population and far ranging species like the Yellowstone NP bears that they have genetic connectivity up the Bitterroots to Canada and back in order to be a viable population. Hunting will truncate this genetic connectivity. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who can't tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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Grizzly populations in the northern Rockies are all small, isolated and facing many threats that are likely to increase over time. One might make a case that the bears in the immediate Yellowstone area are doing okay, but it has hardly increased in the past decade, faces serious challenges brought on by climate change, and human-induced mortality continues to be high. The species itself now occupies only a tiny fraction of its former range.	Factor E	I am strongly opposed to this proposal. It is not supported by the best available science with regard to grizzly bear populations and is (another) complete abdication of USFWS responsibility to protect threatened and endangered species. Grizzly populations in the northern Rockies are all small, isolated and facing many threats that are likely to increase over time. One might make a case that the bears in the immediate Yellowstone area are doing okay, but it has hardly increased in the past decade, faces serious challenges brought on by climate change, and human-induced mortality continues to be high. The species itself now occupies only a tiny fraction of its former range. What is needed is continuing rigorous protection of grizzly bears in the hope that currently isolated populations will slowly expand and make contact with one another. Only federal protection can provide any hope that this might happen. To propose turning management of this species over to the states is ludicrous. The result will be another debacle like what has happened with the gray wolf. Do you really want that? Is it appropriate to have trophy hunting of an apex predator with a reproductive rate like that of the grizzly? Given the irrational anti-predator mania that currently grips all of the states in the northern Rockies, to contemplate handing over protection and management of grizzly bears to them would be nothing less than criminally irresponsible. Please pay attention to what the biology tells you and act responsibly in this matter. Kenneth P. Able McArthur, California	Sierra Club	
Grizzly bears, like the rest of life on this planet, are being threatened by climate change. As governments excruciatingly slowly introduce changes to our dependence on fossil fuels, the planet is warming. Bark beetles are surviving the warmer winters, damaging pine trees, and reducing the availability of pine cones that are an important food source for grizzlies. These creatures have enough difficulty surviving the changes to their habitat to face culling by hunters. I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States' most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. 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The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Factor E	Grizzly bears, like the rest of life on this planet, are being threatened by climate change. As governments excruciatingly slowly introduce changes to our dependence on fossil fuels, the planet is warming. Bark beetles are surviving the warmer winters, damaging pine trees, and reducing the availability of pine cones that are an important food source for grizzlies. These creatures have enough difficulty surviving the changes to their habitat to face culling by hunters. I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. 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And we know that fragmented populations go extinct. Small isolated populations are more likely to go extinct: http://faculty.plattsburgh.edu/thomas.wolosz/smallpopulations.htm	Factor E	This is a request to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. Delisting these Yellowstone grizzly bears will undo any gains in their healthy population to date by making them 100% available to hunters in surrounding states. The surrounding states have said they plan to actively implement extensive hunting programs, including trophy hunting. If Greater Yellowstone grizzlies can?t use the little wild land they have left to feed, raise their families and interbreed with other grizzlies, it is likely they will go extinct very soon due to human encroachment: Combined with 1) stalling population growth, 2) lost food sources, 3) higher stress levels, and 4) fewer cubs living to adulthood, current state and federal proposals are a program for steep population decline of Yellowstone Grizzly bears. Top predators in their own ecosystem, Yellowstone grizzly bears are no match for hunters. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies vulnerable to statewide, organized hunting by surrounding states, whice have made it 100% clear of their intentions to eliminate these defenseless bears. It just cannot be stated any more clearly: this current proposal to delist Yellowstone Grizzlies bears will ensure a rapid loss of these bear populations by a confluence of effects: 1) States will be able to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, 2) Female grizzlies will be killed by trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear, 3) reproductive rates will plummet due to less bears of any age, fewer available female bears, fewer cubs, and less frequent survival to breeding age by cubs, 4) Further isolation of the Yellowstone grizzly population from other Grizzly populations will ensure extinction of a viable population. The bears are simply no match for the encircling states proposed vigorous hunting. As scientists we know that top predators are vital to a healthy ecosystem. And we know that fragmented populations go extinct. Small isolated populations are more likely to go extinct: http://faculty.plattsburgh.edu/thomas.wolosz/smallpopulations.htm If we permit the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly, we are saying to the world we don't value our wildlife or the Yellowstone ecosystem enough to keep it intact including its top predator, the Yellowstone grizzly bear. As someone who likes to visit Yellowstone on vacation this loss to our culture, to a healthy ecosystem at Yellowstone, is unacceptable. People and bears can coexist. If the Yellowstone bears are delisted today, it is the first step in a steep slide toward extinction of Yellowstone grizzly bears. I urge you, please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
Also, young cubs are seriously susceptible to death by fires, which continue to decimate the drought-affected forests of Yellowstone and the western US. Å	Factor E	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. Also, young cubs are seriously susceptible to death by fires, which continue to decimate the drought-affected forests of Yellowstone and the western US. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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WE know that changing weather patterns is making it difficult for bears to gain enough weight to hibernate. One example is that moth pupa on high mountains are not reproducing enough and grizzly bears can't find enough to fatten up for the winter. Climate change is taking a toll and the bears must have time to adjust. This could take generations! Â Take the long view. They were hear long before we were imagined. They can survive us IF WE protect them NOW.	Factor E	I saw my first grizzly bear in Yellowstone National Park on vacation with my parents in 1959. The image has stuck with me for my whole life. I was conservationist before I had heard the word. YOU and I know that WE ARE RESPONSIBLE for the mass extinction we are witnessing this life time. I have been researching endangered butterflies and bees for 20 years. YES, all things are connected. What's good for bees and butterflies is good for bears. WE know that changing weather patterns is making it difficult for bears to gain enough weight to hibernate. One example is that moth pupa on high mountains are not reproducing enough and grizzly bears can't find enough to fatten up for the winter. Climate change is taking a toll and the bears must have time to adjust. This could take generations! Take the long view. They were hear long before we were imagined. They can survive us IF WE protect them NOW. I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
The Greater Yellowstone grizzly, having no access to the salmon that make up such a large part of the coastal grizzly's diet, are unusually dependent on such food sources as the whitebark pine, which as you know has been devastated in many areas by blister rust and the pine beetle. Not only has this greatly reduced this crop this crop in the bear's diet, but has forced them in many cases to scavenge more in human-inhabited areas, bringing them into deadly situations where they are so often the losers. With the many threats to our forests that have been intensified by climate change, there will continue to be unpredictable effects that may well further deplete this resource and its usefulness to species that depend on it.This is likely to result in more female bears who are unable to gain sufficient weight before denning and therefore cannot successfully carry a pregnancy, which further reduces the already low number of cubs likely to be born in any given year.	Factor E	While the Greater Yellowstone grizzly population may appear to have sufficient numbers at this time to be considered recovered, there are particular concerns about this population that make this a poor time to remove any protections from them. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly, having no access to the salmon that make up such a large part of the coastal grizzly's diet, are unusually dependent on such food sources as the whitebark pine, which as you know has been devastated in many areas by blister rust and the pine beetle. Not only has this greatly reduced this crop this crop in the bear's diet, but has forced them in many cases to scavenge more in human-inhabited areas, bringing them into deadly situations where they are so often the losers. With the many threats to our forests that have been intensified by climate change, there will continue to be unpredictable effects that may well further deplete this resource and its usefulness to species that depend on it. This is likely to result in more female bears who are unable to gain sufficient weight before denning and therefore cannot successfully carry a pregnancy, which further reduces the already low number of cubs likely to be born in any given year. And the state plans waiting in the wings will greatly endanger every bear who roams outside park boundaries, which will not only have a steep impact on bear numbers directly, but over time causes the population to become a genetic bottleneck, further reducing its viability. There are many reasons not to delist the grizzly at this time, and together their weight is far greater than that of the misinformation and misdirected hostility of those who are unwilling to consider better bear management plans as a way for humans and grizzlies to share space. I strongly urge you to scrap any plans to delist the Greater Yellowstone grizzly at this time. A poor idea with a lot of political support is still a poor idea.	Sierra Club	

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Two of the crucial food sources for grizzlies are in danger: Whitebark pine is functionally extinct, and cutthroat trout are in deep decline. In additional, hundreds of bison are killed and exported from the ecosystem every year, essentially strip mining protein which could feed hundreds of bears. This forces bears to eat more elk and probably more livestock, bringing them into much higher risk of conflict with armed humans . Â	Factor E	I am writing to demand that you postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. This is not the time to take away the meager protections that grizzly bears enjoy in Greater Yellowstone. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. I make my living partly from showing people LIVE grizzly bears in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, and elsewhere. There is nothing like watching someone experience their first grizzly bear sighting. It is truly a lifetime experience, and Greater Yellowstone is one of the best places to see and learn about these magnificent animals. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire world, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. I personally have worked for 30 years to help keep the grizzly bear secure and to assure their small numbers continue to grow. We are on the brink now with this population and cannot afford to start letting them disappear again. Two of the crucial food sources for grizzlies are in danger: Whitebark pine is functionally extinct, and cutthroat trout are in deep decline. In additional, hundreds of bison are killed and exported from the ecosystem every year, essentially strip mining protein which could feed hundreds of bears. This forces bears to eat more elk and probably more livestock, bringing them into much higher risk of conflict with armed humans. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. A breeding female may take ten years just to replace herself with one breeding offspring. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the grizzly population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The thought of people blasting away at grizzlies in some kind of sick sport hunt just makes me ill. Each bear killed is one less that people can enjoy over and over again, and one less to contribute to the recovery of the population. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. This is inexcusable and smacks of poor, short sighted management. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations, which is supposed to be one of the goals of federal recovery. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
Another factor to consider here is to retain the grizzly's natural Genetic Diversity by not depopulating them to the point where they're all in one little geographic area and inbreeding becuase there aren't many bears left to mate with. It deserves critical attention in the fight for their survival . Â	Factor E	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to and ensure, not endanger, their true recovery. Another factor to consider here is to retain the grizzly's natural Genetic Diversity by not depopulating them to the point where they're all in one little geographic area and inbreeding becuase there aren't many bears left to mate with. It deserves critical attention in the fight for their survival.	Sierra Club	

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Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them.	Miscellaneous	Please postpone the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States' most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort, especially with the climate changing as quickly as it is. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, there was a 6% decline last year, and a great uncertainty as the region will warm up over the next several years and their natural habitat will shrink. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. If the bears are delisted, the least the agency could do is to have an annual review and have the states keep detailed records of their hunts impact. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
And as an apex predator, their presence is crucial to the health of wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone region.	Miscellaneous	I understand you've recently released a proposal to remove Endangered Species protections from grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone region. These bears are an essential piece of the American West, a wildlife icon that has been integral to the Yellowstone region for centuries. Each year, visitors spend millions in the region, hoping to catch a glimpse of a grizzly, this beautiful and powerful symbol of our wild heritage. And as an apex predator, their presence is crucial to the health of wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone region. Thanks to Endangered Species protections, grizzly bears are making a remarkable recovery after being hunted to the brink of extinction, but they're still vulnerable. Your proposal to delist the grizzly fails to preserve this progress and will reverse it. The bears' naturally slow reproductive rate, loss of key food sources to climate change, and state plans to reduce numbers through methods like trophy hunts, all spell disaster. It's too soon to remove ESA protections for Greater Yellowstone grizzlies! Despite making a comeback, the Greater Yellowstone grizzly population still faces significant challenges for true recovery. The population has barely grown since the early 2000s, and fewer cubs are living to adulthood. Grizzlies also naturally reproduce very slowly; a female only has one or two cubs every few years, so the hunting death of even one female is a significant loss. They are also geographically isolated, a serious threat to the long-term health of the population. Although bears will have some measure of protection within Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, once they range outside the park boundaries, they will be at the mercy of neighboring state management policies. This could effectively prevent bears from connecting with other grizzly populations, further limiting the bears' potential for true recovery. It's critical that you get this right, and this plan isn't right. Changes in the bears' feeding and foraging habits have increased the incidences of bears dying as a result of conflicts with hunters and ranchers. But bears and people can and have peacefully co-existed for centuries. Education and better management are both more effective ways of solving these problems, not a blanket removal of protections, or a trophy hunt. Please retain ESA protections until grizzly bears are truly recovered, take action to protect our iconic wildlife today! Thanks for all you do for western wildlife,	Sierra Club	

Trigger Text	Code(s)	Unit Text	Form Letter	Annotation
I am a registered tribal member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the North American Tribal Alliances is working towards asking for our entire continent back from colonial occupation and restoring this country back to self sufficiency which includes allowing wildlife to flourish and keeping settlers on lands that don't impact our natural world. Â Bears are regarded as spiritual beings and are embedded in Native Spirituality.	Miscellaneous	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery. I am a registered tribal member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the North American Tribal Alliances is working towards asking for our entire continent back from colonial occupation and restoring this country back to self sufficiency which includes allowing wildlife to flourish and keeping settlers on lands that don't impact our natural world. Bears are regarded as spiritual beings and are embedded in Native Spirituality. Thank you	Sierra Club	
The proposed delisting is extremely irresponsible, and completely contrary to the scientific evidence available to us. I am counting on ths US Fish and Wildlife service to do the right thing, and stop the proposed desliting before this disastrous proposal goes any farther. You are stpossed to be better than this, you are supposed to be protecting our wild creatures, not opening them up to extinction so that a few hunters can kill 399, 610, and the other bears that Wyoming counts on to draw hundreds of thousands of tourists to our state every year. These bears are worth more to the people of Wyoming, and the surrounding western states, protected and alive, and are worth nothing to us as trophies hanging on some rich hunter's wall. Stop this scientifically unsupported and economically damaging delisting proposal in its tracks, for the the sake of the continued survival of the grizzly bear and the people of Wyoming, many of whom count on tourism to make their living. Please do the right thing, and leave the grizzly bear on the endangered species list . Â	Miscellaneous	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who can't tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery. There are many wild places for the bears to move into, in order to expand their range, and improve their chances of survival, but the bears will never reach those available spaces if we hunt them the minute they step out of a national park. The proposed delisting is extremely irresponsible, and completely contrary to the scientific evidence available to us. I am counting on ths US Fish and Wildlife service to do the right thing, and stop the proposed desliting before this disastrous proposal goes any farther. You are stpossed to be better than this, you are supposed to be protecting our wild creatures, not opening them up to extinction so that a few hunters can kill 399, 610, and the other bears that Wyoming counts on to draw hundreds of thousands of tourists to our state every year. These bears are worth more to the people of Wyoming, and the surrounding western states, protected and alive, and are worth nothing to us as trophies hanging on some rich hunter's wall. Stop this scientifically unsupported and economically damaging delisting proposal in its tracks, for the the sake of the continued survival of the grizzly bear and the people of Wyoming, many of whom count on tourism to make their living. Please do the right thing, and leave the grizzly bear on the endangered species list.	Sierra Club	

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I wanted to add that grizzlies keep the deer population in check. When the deers do not have enough predators, they become diseased and can spread disease to family pets, and expand their eating areas into home gardens and shrubbery.	Miscellaneous	Yes, it is a form letter; unable to recall the name of this specific type of missive. In addition to what was already on this page, I wanted to add that grizzlies keep the deer population in check. When the deers do not have enough predators, they become diseased and can spread disease to family pets, and expand their eating areas into home gardens and shrubbery. I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States' most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who can't tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
Biodiversity is extremely vital to our ecosystem. Grizzly bears are indicator animals; they help preserve habitats home to many organisms. Their protection also ensures the protection of a variety of species of flora and fauna, causing adverse affects to the local ecosystem. Æ	Miscellaneous	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States' most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to and ensure, not endanger, their true recovery. Biodiversity is extremely vital to our ecosystem. Grizzly bears are indicator animals; they help preserve habitats home to many organisms. Their protection also ensures the protection of a variety of species of flora and fauna, causing adverse affects to the local ecosystem.	Sierra Club	

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While I appreciate the ongoing recovery of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population, I don't believe these animals have sufficiently recovered yet to warrant removing their extra protection afforded by the Endangered Species Act. The economic bonuses resulting from this removal will be extremely small and short-term compared to the economic losses likely to be suffered from the undoubtedly precipitous drop in these slow-maturing, slow-breeding animals' numbers should they be exposed to trophy hunts and culling once again. People spend a lot of money to visit Yellowstone in the hopes of seeing the bears, or the other wildlife these predators' actions keep healthy. That won't be coming back if the bear population is lost, which is what's undoubtedly in the offing should you remove their protection.	Miscellaneous	While I appreciate the ongoing recovery of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population, I don't believe these animals have sufficiently recovered yet to warrant removing their extra protection afforded by the Endangered Species Act. The economic bonuses resulting from this removal will be extremely small and short-term compared to the economic losses likely to be suffered from the undoubtedly precipitous drop in these slow-maturing, slow-breeding animals' numbers should they be exposed to trophy hunts and culling once again. People spend a lot of money to visit Yellowstone in the hopes of seeing the bears, or the other wildlife these predators' actions keep healthy. That won't be coming back if the bear population is lost, which is what's undoubtedly in the offing should you remove their protection. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in an extremely bad situation. We know perfectly well that the state governments of the region are prepared to declare open season on the bears wherever they deem necessary. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to and ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
Furthermore, the removal of the grizzly bear is a heartbreak to the Native Americans/First Nation people who revere and honor this creature. To finally have this animal living where it lived for millenia before Euro-centric settlers came to this land, is a blessing of great magnitude, for all indigenous peoples. Æ	Miscellaneous	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States' most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. Furthermore, the removal of the grizzly bear is a heartbreak to the Native Americans/First Nation people who revere and honor this creature. To finally have this animal living where it lived for millenia before Euro-centric settlers came to this land, is a blessing of great magnitude, for all indigenous peoples. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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It should be noted that top-tier predators contribute to the health of rivers by limiting the time prey animals linger there, thus doing less damage to riverbanks and decreasing erosion. Decreased riverbank erosion leads to more water retained in nearby soils, contributing to the health of surrounding land as well. In this time of critical water shortages, grizzlies can help natural ecosystems restore themselves . Â	Miscellaneous	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to and ensure, not endanger, their true recovery. It should be noted that top-tier predators contribute to the health of rivers by limiting the time prey animals linger there, thus doing less damage to riverbanks and decreasing erosion. Decreased riverbank erosion leads to more water retained in nearby soils, contributing to the health of surrounding land as well. In this time of critical water shortages, grizzlies can help natural ecosystems restore themselves.	Sierra Club	
In the narrower view, visitors to Yellowstone -- some of whom come to try to see the grizzly in this habitat, while others come to see the habitat upon which the grizzly, as apex predator, has an effect -- spend millions of dollars in the local economy every year. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss to this Yellowstone ecosystem in which they function and a loss to the economy of the local region. Further, delisting would be an insult to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have worked and fought tirelessly to save them.	Miscellaneous	I strongly oppose any delisting from Endangered Species Act protection of the Yellowstone Grizzly by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and urge you to postpone delisting. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list not only fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery, but will reverse any gains that have been made. We should act slowly and conservatively in considering removing endangered species protections. While grizzlies have made some progress in population recovery, they still occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 states. They reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years, which means small changes in their circumstances can have large effects on the population. Further, as all species are, the grizzly is suffering the effects of climate change in the loss of key food sources. In the Yellowstone region, population growth has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed delisting threatens this Greater Yellowstone grizzly because it will open the way for states to enact existing plans to reduce the population, including by means of trophy kills. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which, under pressure from ranching interests especially, have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, which could cause potentially irreversible damage to populations and allow eradication of bears in some areas. Hunters may not be able to tell male from female, and the loss of female grizzlies especially could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action could be taken. Also, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated, which in itself is already a negative pressure on a genetically robust population. To further limit their range and numbers could exacerbate this, and could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. We humans don't have the right ? or the perspective ? to "manage" wildlife, and certainly not by hunting or so-called "sport" killing which grizzlies would face if the ESA protections were lifted. Earth evolved its varied species in a self-regulating balance; humans don't have a wide enough view to improve on that and only cause harm when we try. Grizzlies are not only a crucial apex species in their ecosystems, but each is a unique individual born with a right to exist and make his way without fear of being stalked and murdered by cowards with guns. Killing individuals devastates family structures and leaves mates and offspring vulnerable; it also diminishes the genetic diversity needed for healthy populations, which in turn affects all the prey and plant species regulated under healthy keystone predator populations. To in any way permit or encourage hunting of these or any animals is a disgrace and is to share in responsibility for the unconscionable threat and potential loss of this population. In the narrower view, visitors to Yellowstone -- some of whom come to try to see the grizzly in this habitat, while others come to see the habitat upon which the grizzly, as apex predator, has an effect -- spend millions of dollars in the local economy every year. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss to this Yellowstone ecosystem in which they function and a loss to the economy of the local region. Further, delisting would be an insult to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have worked and fought tirelessly to save them. People and bears can coexist -- as we have for millennia. We must not be responsible for threatening the grizzly with extinction by caving to pressure from misguided, anti-scientific ranching and hunting interests. Please continue the Endangered Species Act protection of Yellowstone grizzlies to ensure their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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These state plans would fragment and disconnect populations and inevitably produce an extinction vortex in which a small population cannot manage to recuperate (the Allee effect). We have already endangered the lives of large mammalian tertiary consumers to the point of drastically altering the populations of elk and deer whose large numbers endanger plants species--which are even more threatened than animals. Please, understand that the implications behind this move would create a mess of trophic cascades unfavorable to everyone. There are other solutions. We must relinquish our fears of larger animals to respect them as lives in themselves and to reap the ecosystem benefits they provide . Â	Miscellaneous	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. These state plans would fragment and disconnect populations and inevitably produce an extinction vortex in which a small population cannot manage to recuperate (the Allee effect). We have already endangered the lives of large mammalian tertiary consumers to the point of drastically altering the populations of elk and deer whose large numbers endanger plants species--which are even more threatened than animals. Please, understand that the implications behind this move would create a mess of trophic cascades unfavorable to everyone. There are other solutions. We must relinquish our fears of larger animals to respect them as lives in themselves and to reap the ecosystem benefits they provide. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
As the largest predator, grizzlies also keep other species from getting out of control as they are very effective predators on newborn elk, moose, deer or caribou. Â	Miscellaneous	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery, in fact, it will reverse it. As the largest predator, grizzlies also keep other species from getting out of control as they are very effective predators on newborn elk, moose, deer or caribou. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to and ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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Top predators like the grizzly and the wolf are extremely important for ecosystems. They keep large ruminants on the move, and their herds stay healthy. They also suppress population keep populations of coyotes and raccoon from becoming pests. It is essential to have these animals around in adequate numbers to keep the ecology healthy .	Miscellaneous	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. . Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, to visit Yellowstone National Park in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-3 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. Top predators like the grizzly and the wolf are extremely important for ecosystems. They keep large ruminants on the move, and their herds stay healthy. They also suppress population keep populations of coyotes and raccoon from becoming pests. It is essential to have these animals around in adequate numbers to keep the ecology healthy. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to significantly reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to a trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population is isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to and ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort, especially with the climate changing as quickly as it is. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, there was a 6% decline last year	Population parameters	Please postpone the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort, especially with the climate changing as quickly as it is. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, there was a 6% decline last year, and a great uncertainty as the region will warm up over the next several years and their natural habitat will shrink. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. If the bears are delisted, the least the agency could do is to have an annual review and have the states keep detailed records of their hunts impact. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	

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The bears' naturally slow reproductive rate, loss of key food sources to climate change, and state plans to reduce numbers through methods like trophy hunts, all spell disaster. It's too soon to remove ESA protections for Greater Yellowstone grizzlies!	Population parameters	I understand you've recently released a proposal to remove Endangered Species protections from grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone region. These bears are an essential piece of the American West, a wildlife icon that has been integral to the Yellowstone region for centuries. Each year, visitors spend millions in the region, hoping to catch a glimpse of a grizzly, this beautiful and powerful symbol of our wild heritage. And as an apex predator, their presence is crucial to the health of wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone region. Thanks to Endangered Species protections, grizzly bears are making a remarkable recovery after being hunted to the brink of extinction, but they're still vulnerable. Your proposal to delist the grizzly fails to preserve this progress and will reverse it. The bears' naturally slow reproductive rate, loss of key food sources to climate change, and state plans to reduce numbers through methods like trophy hunts, all spell disaster. It's too soon to remove ESA protections for Greater Yellowstone grizzlies! Despite making a comeback, the Greater Yellowstone grizzly population still faces significant challenges for true recovery. The population has barely grown since the early 2000s, and fewer cubs are living to adulthood. Grizzlies also naturally reproduce very slowly; a female only has one or two cubs every few years, so the hunting death of even one female is a significant loss. They are also geographically isolated, a serious threat to the long-term health of the population. Although bears will have some measure of protection within Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, once they range outside the park boundaries, they will be at the mercy of neighboring state management policies. This could effectively prevent bears from connecting with other grizzly populations, further limiting the bears' potential for true recovery. It's critical that you get this right, and this plan isn't right. Changes in the bears' feeding and foraging habits have increased the incidences of bears dying as a result of conflicts with hunters and ranchers. But bears and people can and have peacefully co-existed for centuries. Education and better management are both more effective ways of solving these problems, not a blanket removal of protections, or a trophy hunt. Please retain ESA protections until grizzly bears are truly recovered, take action to protect our iconic wildlife today! Thanks for all you do for western wildlife,	Sierra Club	
The population has barely grown since the early 2000s, and fewer cubs are living to adulthood. Grizzlies also naturally reproduce very slowly; a female only has one or two cubs every few years, so the hunting death of even one female is a significant loss.	Population parameters	I understand you've recently released a proposal to remove Endangered Species protections from grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone region. These bears are an essential piece of the American West, a wildlife icon that has been integral to the Yellowstone region for centuries. Each year, visitors spend millions in the region, hoping to catch a glimpse of a grizzly, this beautiful and powerful symbol of our wild heritage. And as an apex predator, their presence is crucial to the health of wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone region. Thanks to Endangered Species protections, grizzly bears are making a remarkable recovery after being hunted to the brink of extinction, but they're still vulnerable. Your proposal to delist the grizzly fails to preserve this progress and will reverse it. The bears' naturally slow reproductive rate, loss of key food sources to climate change, and state plans to reduce numbers through methods like trophy hunts, all spell disaster. It's too soon to remove ESA protections for Greater Yellowstone grizzlies! Despite making a comeback, the Greater Yellowstone grizzly population still faces significant challenges for true recovery. The population has barely grown since the early 2000s, and fewer cubs are living to adulthood. Grizzlies also naturally reproduce very slowly; a female only has one or two cubs every few years, so the hunting death of even one female is a significant loss. They are also geographically isolated, a serious threat to the long-term health of the population. Although bears will have some measure of protection within Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, once they range outside the park boundaries, they will be at the mercy of neighboring state management policies. This could effectively prevent bears from connecting with other grizzly populations, further limiting the bears' potential for true recovery. It's critical that you get this right, and this plan isn't right. Changes in the bears' feeding and foraging habits have increased the incidences of bears dying as a result of conflicts with hunters and ranchers. But bears and people can and have peacefully co-existed for centuries. Education and better management are both more effective ways of solving these problems, not a blanket removal of protections, or a trophy hunt. Please retain ESA protections until grizzly bears are truly recovered, take action to protect our iconic wildlife today! Thanks for all you do for western wildlife,	Sierra Club	

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The grizzly has the second slowest reproduction rate of all North American mammals, making it harder for it to rebound from threats to its survival.Females do not reach breeding maturity until they are 4 to 9 years old and generally give birth to two cubs every 3 years. On occasion, one or three cubs may be born to a female, but two is the more common number.Cubs remain dependent upon their mother's milk for almost a year, stay with their mother for 2 to 3 years, and reach breeding maturity at about five years. In some cases they may not breed until 8 or 9 years of age. When they do reach breeding age, females only breed every 3 or more years. (Brown Bear .org)	Population parameters	The grizzly has the second slowest reproduction rate of all North American mammals, making it harder for it to rebound from threats to its survival. Females do not reach breeding maturity until they are 4 to 9 years old and generally give birth to two cubs every 3 years. On occasion, one or three cubs may be born to a female, but two is the more common number. Cubs remain dependent upon their mother's milk for almost a year, stay with their mother for 2 to 3 years, and reach breeding maturity at about five years. In some cases they may not breed until 8 or 9 years of age. When they do reach breeding age, females only breed every 3 or more years. (Brown Bear .org) Considering the near zero tolerance level towards predators, omnivore or carnivore, (wolves as an example) that states like Idaho has, it is far too early to consider removing the Grizzly bear from a threatened status and allow the animal to be hunted. I don't have a problem with ethical substance hunting, but I do not believe some wildlife agencies will manage the bears in a way that will maintain the sustainability of this specific species. ~ Steve Clevidence/Montana	Sierra Club	
Grizzly populations in the northern Rockies are all small, isolated and facing many threats that are likely to increase over time. One might make a case that the bears in the immediate Yellowstone area are doing okay, but it has hardly increased in the past decade, faces serious challenges brought on by climate change, and human-induced mortality continues to be high. The species itself now occupies only a tiny fraction of its former range.	Population parameters	I am strongly opposed to this proposal. It is not supported by the best available science with regard to grizzly bear populations and is (another) complete abdication of USFWS responsibility to protect threatened and endangered species. Grizzly populations in the northern Rockies are all small, isolated and facing many threats that are likely to increase over time. One might make a case that the bears in the immediate Yellowstone area are doing okay, but it has hardly increased in the past decade, faces serious challenges brought on by climate change, and human-induced mortality continues to be high. The species itself now occupies only a tiny fraction of its former range. What is needed is continuing rigorous protection of grizzly bears in the hope that currently isolated populations will slowly expand and make contact with one another. Only federal protection can provide any hope that this might happen. To propose turning management of this species over to the states is ludicrous. The result will be another debacle like what has happened with the gray wolf. Do you really want that? Is it appropriate to have trophy hunting of an apex predator with a reproductive rate like that of the grizzly? Given the irrational anti-predator mania that currently grips all of the states in the northern Rockies, to contemplate handing over protection and management of grizzly bears to them would be nothing less than criminally irresponsible. Please pay attention to what the biology tells you and act responsibly in this matter. Kenneth P. Able McArthur, California	Sierra Club	

Trigger Text	Code(s)	Unit Text	Form Letter	Annotation
Are there more grizzlies now than there were in say, 1800? I know, ...they are really tough bears, but they were here first. I'm thinking that if they aren't "over-populated" yet (like us) we should just keep them on the list. I'm assuming that you have some figure in mind, as to what the grizzly population should be. And I would like to know what that is based on - how it is derived. Are you looking back to 1499, or are you looking at how many bears can sustain their lives in their depleted habitat? Just wondering.	Population parameters	Are there more grizzlies now than there were in say, 1800? I know, ...they are really tough bears, but they were here first. I'm thinking that if they aren't "over-populated" yet (like us) we should just keep them on the list. I'm assuming that you have some figure in mind, as to what the grizzly population should be. And I would like to know what that is based on - how it is derived. Are you looking back to 1499, or are you looking at how many bears can sustain their lives in their depleted habitat? Just wondering.	Sierra Club	
Removing the bears from the endangered species list will find them severely culled outside of the park. There are only about 700 bears and the population has not grown appreciably for the past 15 years. Surely somewhere among the 330 million people in this country we can find space for 700 bears. Please continue to protect them.	Population parameters	Please indefinitely postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. Removing the bears from the endangered species list will find them severely culled outside of the park. There are only about 700 bears and the population has not grown appreciably for the past 15 years. Surely somewhere among the 330 million people in this country we can find space for 700 bears. Please continue to protect them.	Sierra Club	

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Furthermore, state wildlife agencies across the West have demonstrated they are incapable of managing predators--wolves, cougars, or bears. They have an inherent bias against predators. They ignore the social ecology of these animals, and its effects on behavior. For instance it is well established that disruption of social ecology of cougar as well as wolves leads to more human conflicts as the population is shifted to younger animals. Â	Post-delisting monitoring and management	I am writing to urge you to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The proposal to remove Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered species list fails to preserve the progress made toward bear recovery. In fact, it will reverse it. As an ecologist who has studied predator ecology and done ecological studies of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, I can say without a doubt that this delisting is way premature. Grizzly numbers still have not reached the number considered safe by many population ecologist. The important issue is effective breeding population and genetic diversity. With small populations bears are more vulnerable to decline, and since one dominant male may sire many offspring, the genetic diversity in any population is much smaller than just numbers. Furthermore, state wildlife agencies across the West have demonstrated they are incapable of managing predators--wolves, cougars, or bears. They have an inherent bias against predators. They ignore the social ecology of these animals, and its effects on behavior. For instance it is well established that disruption of social ecology of cougar as well as wolves leads to more human conflicts as the population is shifted to younger animals. Plus bears suffer fairly low mortality in the absence of human control and hunting. Thus hunting mortality is not compensatory as it might be in elk. It is usually additive. The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is one of the United States? most iconic species. Held sacred by native communities for thousands of years in the west, the majestic grizzly has become a treasured symbol of our wild heritage. Visitors spend millions of dollars in the region every year, a vital part of many local economies, in the hopes of spotting a magnificent grizzly. The loss of the grizzly would be a loss for the entire region, and a disservice to the wildlife professionals, dedicated conservationists and wildlife advocates who have fought to save them. While grizzlies have made a comeback, their recovery is still a delicate and uncertain effort. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies in the crosshairs, as states have made clear their plans to reduce the population, including through trophy hunts. Management of grizzly bears outside of the national parks would be left completely up to the states, which have historically been hostile to bears and other large carnivores. The current proposal would allow states to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, allowing for potentially irreversible damage, and would allow complete eradication of bears in some areas. The loss of female grizzlies to trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear could cause a steep, quick decline before emergency action can be taken. Additionally, the Yellowstone grizzly population remains isolated; further limiting their range and numbers could prevent them from ever connecting to other grizzly populations. People and bears can coexist. We should not let bears slide back towards extinction because of misplaced political hostility towards these magnificent and beloved creatures. The end result of this proposal will be fewer bears limited to an even smaller portion of the Yellowstone region. Please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	
My personal experience with hunters, guides, a commissioner for the MT Dept of FWP, and a long time USFS employee who writes about grizzlies in Montana and who is highly respected by would be grizzly hunters, tells me that the MTFWP will set up an aggressive grizzly hunt in response to heavy pressure from these groups. They will also placate small Montana towns' residents where the benefits of species protection for wilderness values have not been accepted. In the 8 months I lived in Sheridan, MT in 2013, everyone I discussed wildlife management with was in favor of killing all griz in their hunting districts and neighboring districts. These small town residents do have political power with the MTFWP Dept. and their opinions will carry heavy weight. The opinions so often expressed by these people are old and outdated. They are generated from a value system that places no importance on species protection in general. Human values in rational minds have evolved on this planet to include the protection of diverse species. As one culture of a species concerned with only it's own benefit we nearly killed off all bison and grizzlies in the march west to steal this land from native Americans. We further decimated the existing culture to strengthen our claims. These are the old human values that have not changed much in Montana today.	Post-delisting monitoring and management	April 10, 2016 To: USFWS committee to consider de-listing of grizzly bears from the Endangered Species list From: Howard Christiansen PO Box 6202 Bozeman, MT 59771 The reason to make this comment now is to protect the grizzly bear of Montana and to call attention to the importance of considering how our human values affect these kinds of actions to reduce our stewardship of the wilderness and her residents. We need to include a consideration of our own values and how they affect our decisions that have a critical impact on the species of these wilderness and national park areas. I want to prevent de-listing of griz because I value griz and wilderness. The two need each other and we can only have both if we protect them as one. These thoughts are consistent with my human values. My spirit and the spirits of all of us need wilderness and the many species that are at home in their wilderness. The USFS suggests to all it's employees that they read the book, The Practice of the Wild by Gary Snyder. I have read it and have integrated it into my thoughts. Good wildlife science has produced solid evidence that these Great Bears still need to be fully protected by the Endangered Species Act. That research that has been done and elucidated by Dr. David Mattson. The scientific work done by David is at the cutting edge of science on the status of the griz. So, who am I? I'm a life long Montanan, a scientist, and I've talked to people who have different opinions from my own. I was born in Montana and have lived over 50 years of my life here, with 39 of the last 40 in south central Montana. My great great grandfather came directly from Lillehammer, Norway at 16 years old to homestead near Chinook in 1880. I've backpacked and climbed in 10 different wilderness areas or wilderness protected status areas and 2 national parks of Montana. Of course, all had bears and nearly all had griz. I need griz to be protected and I know, as a master's degree level analytical chemist, how to recognize top notch scientific research. I recognize that the evidence presented by Dr. David Mattson is excellent. You should heed his words now. He says that climate change has so seriously affected the foraging requirements of griz that we cannot effectively even approach an accurate assessment of future climate change affects on their numbers. As a student of atmospheric chemistry and climate science for over 20 years, I know how variable the future of conditions of griz habitats will be. The future affects of climate change have already begun for griz and a large number of other species in our wilderness areas and parks. My personal experience with hunters, guides, a commissioner for the MT Dept of FWP, and a long time USFS employee who writes about grizzlies in Montana and who is highly respected by would be grizzly hunters, tells me that the MTFWP will set up an aggressive grizzly hunt in response to heavy pressure from these groups. They will also placate small Montana towns' residents where the benefits of species protection for wilderness values have not been accepted. In the 8 months I lived in Sheridan, MT in 2013, everyone I discussed wildlife management with was in favor of killing all griz in their hunting districts and neighboring districts. These small town residents do have political power with the MTFWP Dept. and their opinions will carry heavy weight. The opinions so often expressed by these people are old and outdated. They are generated from a value system that places no importance on species protection in general. Human values in rational minds have evolved on this planet to include the protection of diverse species. As one culture of a species concerned with only it's own benefit we nearly killed off all bison and grizzlies in the march west to steal this land from native Americans. We further decimated the existing culture to strengthen our claims. These are the old human values that have not changed much in Montana today. Isn't it time to evolve as a culture in our ability and willingness to live with rather than dominate the wilderness and all her residents. We need to think	Sierra Club	

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To propose turning management of this species over to the states is ludicrous. The result will be another debacle like what has happened with the gray wolf. Do you really want that? Is it appropriate to have trophy hunting of an apex predator with a reproductive rate like that of the grizzly? Given the irrational anti-predator mania that currently grips all of the states in the northern Rockies, to contemplate handing over protection and management of grizzly bears to them would be nothing less than criminally irresponsible.	Post-delisting monitoring and management	I am strongly opposed to this proposal. It is not supported by the best available science with regard to grizzly bear populations and is (another) complete abdication of USFWS responsibility to protect threatened and endangered species. Grizzly populations in the northern Rockies are all small, isolated and facing many threats that are likely to increase over time. One might make a case that the bears in the immediate Yellowstone area are doing okay, but it has hardly increased in the past decade, faces serious challenges brought on by climate change, and human-induced mortality continues to be high. The species itself now occupies only a tiny fraction of its former range. What is needed is continuing rigorous protection of grizzly bears in the hope that currently isolated populations will slowly expand and make contact with one another. Only federal protection can provide any hope that this might happen. To propose turning management of this species over to the states is ludicrous. The result will be another debacle like what has happened with the gray wolf. Do you really want that? Is it appropriate to have trophy hunting of an apex predator with a reproductive rate like that of the grizzly? Given the irrational anti-predator mania that currently grips all of the states in the northern Rockies, to contemplate handing over protection and management of grizzly bears to them would be nothing less than criminally irresponsible. Please pay attention to what the biology tells you and act responsibly in this matter. Kenneth P. Able McArthur, California	Sierra Club	
Combined with 1) stalling population growth, 2) lost food sources, 3) higher stress levels, and 4) fewer cubs living to adulthood,current state and federal proposals are a program for steep population decline of Yellowstone Grizzly bears.	Post-delisting monitoring and management	This is a request to postpone delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. Delisting these Yellowstone grizzly bears will undo any gains in their healthy population to date by making them 100% available to hunters in surrounding states. The surrounding states have said they plan to actively implement extensive hunting programs, including trophy hunting. If Greater Yellowstone grizzlies can?t use the little wild land they have left to feed, raise their families and interbreed with other grizzlies, it is likely they will go extinct very soon due to human encroachment: Combined with 1) stalling population growth, 2) lost food sources, 3) higher stress levels, and 4) fewer cubs living to adulthood, current state and federal proposals are a program for steep population decline of Yellowstone Grizzly bears. Top predators in their own ecosystem, Yellowstone grizzly bears are no match for hunters. Grizzly bears occupy less than 2% of their historic range in the lower 48 and reproduce very slowly, at a rate of only 1-2 cubs every few years. In the Yellowstone region, the growth of the population has stalled since the early 2000s, and there was a 6% decline last year. The proposed rule leaves Greater Yellowstone grizzlies vulnerable to statewide, organized hunting by surrounding states, whice have made it 100% clear of their intentions to eliminate these defenseless bears. It just cannot be stated any more clearly: this current proposal to delist Yellowstone Grizzlies bears will ensure a rapid loss of these bear populations by a confluence of effects: 1) States will be able to exceed maximum bear deaths for years before any review, 2) Female grizzlies will be killed by trophy hunters who will not be able to tell the difference between a male and female bear, 3) reproductive rates will plummet due to less bears of any age, fewer available female bears, fewer cubs, and less frequent survival to breeding age by cubs, 4) Further isolation of the Yellowstone grizzly population from other Grizzly populations will ensure extinction of a viable population. The bears are simply no match for the encircling states proposed vigorous hunting. As scientists we know that top predators are vital to a healthy ecosystem. And we know that fragmented populations go extinct. Small isolated populations are more likely to go extinct: http://faculty.plattsburgh.edu/thomas.wolosz/smallpopulations.htm If we permit the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly, we are saying to the world we don't value our wildlife or the Yellowstone ecosystem enough to keep it intact including its top predator, the Yellowstone grizzly bear. As someone who likes to visit Yellowstone on vacation this loss to our culture, to a healthy ecosystem at Yellowstone, is unacceptable. People and bears can coexist. If the Yellowstone bears are delisted today, it is the first step in a steep slide toward extinction of Yellowstone grizzly bears. I urge you, please protect Yellowstone grizzlies until there are adequate plans in place at the state level to ensure, not endanger, their true recovery.	Sierra Club	