

Outline of call discussion from 1/7/15 and proposed plan of approach

We reviewed the issues relating to grizzly recovery and DPS designation. The 1993 recovery plan has an approach that allows recovery by recovery unit and we have been proceeding on that basis. Two factors have caused us to reconsider ways to clarify our future recovery efforts throughout the range of the species: 1) the interest of environmental groups in getting a commitment from the Service to continue to pursue recovery efforts in all the recovery areas as we move to delist Yellowstone; and 2) the recent Western Great Lakes wolf ruling that interprets the ESA as requiring that we cannot designate a DPS in a portion of the range of the species only to delist it. After discussing a range of options, we settled on the following as a reasonable approach:

- Proceed with our Yellowstone delisting rule as we currently have it as a separate rulemaking using the DPS area used successfully in the 2007 delisting rule. This would proceed as planned with a publication of the proposed rule.
- In a separate rulemaking:
 - o Designate the NCDE DPS using the area described in the NCDE Conservation Strategy. This is an area that qualifies as a DPS and whose conservation status is excellent. We have developed the DPS boundaries for this area based on the best available science and in cooperation with our partners. The grizzly bears in this area wherever found will be threatened until a final rule changing their status.
 - o Designate the remaining areas of the listed entity in the 10 western states of ID, WA, OR, CA, NV, AZ, UT, NM, CO, MT, WY as a DPS. The grizzly bears in this area wherever found will be threatened. Within this DPS area are the current Cabinet/Yaak and Selkirk ecosystems. We will state on this rulemaking that upon verified evidence of population(s) of grizzly bears outside the boundaries of the Cabinet/Yaak and Selkirk ecosystems we will identify these ecosystem areas as a separate DPS. The same information will be noted about the North Cascades ecosystem.
- Ideally, these 2 separate rules will be issued at a similar time but this is not essential for the Yellowstone rule to move forward. The second rule will be issued before the Yellowstone rule was finalized.