

From: [Daniel Thompson](#)
To: [Servheen, Chris](#); [Mark A Haroldson](#); [Frank T van Manen](#); [KFrey@mt.gov](#); [Shoemaker, Rebecca](#)
Subject: Fwd: FYI
Date: Thursday, January 15, 2015 9:31:04 AM

Assume you're all aware of this, but just in case. ITS misinterpretation

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Scott Edberg** <scott.edberg@wyo.gov>
Date: Thu, Jan 15, 2015 at 5:29 AM
Subject: Fwd: FYI
To: WGF WILDLIFE ROSUPVS <wgfwildliferosupvs@wyo.gov>, Bob Lanka <bob.lanka@wyo.gov>, Mike Choma <mike.choma@wyo.gov>, Daniel Thompson <daniel.thompson@wyo.gov>, Mary Wood <Mary.Wood@wyo.gov>

FYI

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From: **Scott Talbott** <scott.talbott@wyo.gov>
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2015
Subject: FYI
To: Brian Nesvik <brian.nesvik@wyo.gov>, WGF COMMISSION <wgfcommission@wyo.gov>, John Kennedy <john.kennedy@wyo.gov>, WGF STAFF <wgfstaff@wyo.gov>

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From: **Matt Hogan** <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Jan 14, 2015 at 2:44 PM
Subject: FYI
To: Scott Talbott <scott.talbott@wyo.gov>

ENDANGERED SPECIES:

Enviros threaten lawsuit over approval of grizzly kills

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, January 14, 2015

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Two environmental groups today announced plans to sue the Obama administration for approving the killing of up to 15 federally threatened grizzly bears in northwest Wyoming in the coming years, a level of mortality they argued was unsustainable.

The Sierra Club and Western Watersheds Project said they filed two 60-day notices of intent to sue under the Endangered Species Act.

They're [challenging](#) the Fish and Wildlife Service's decision in September 2013 to allow the National Park Service to move forward with an elk hunt in Grand Teton National Park that is expected to cause the deaths of four grizzlies over the next nine years. They're also [challenging](#) FWS' decision in September to allow the Forest Service to continue livestock grazing in the Upper Green River area of the Bridger-Teton National Forest that will kill as many as 11 grizzlies within any three-year span until 2019.

Those approvals combined with other FWS "take" determinations in the Yellowstone National Park region could allow up to 65 female grizzlies to be killed in a single year, the groups claimed. That's more than three times Fish and Wildlife's own mortality limit, they said.

"Killing 15 more bears in the Yellowstone region, including even in one of our nation's premier national parks, could be the straw that breaks the camel's -- or, in this case, the grizzly's -- back," said a statement by Earthjustice attorney Tim Preso, who is representing the environmental groups. "The Endangered Species Act requires federal officials to look at that big picture, yet they failed to do so."

The lawsuit comes as FWS is expected to soon [propose](#) the delisting of Yellowstone-area grizzlies.

FWS delisted grizzlies in 2007, but the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana reversed the decision in 2009, finding that regulations were not strong enough and that the agency had not fully considered threats posed by the decline of whitebark pine, one of the bear's key food sources.

That decision was appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which in November 2011 upheld the lower court's judgment on whitebark pine, while ruling existing regulations were adequate ([E&ENews PM](#), Nov. 22, 2011).

An interagency report in late 2013 concluded that grizzlies are resilient predators that can adapt to a shortage of whitebark pine by finding other foods.

The loss of whitebark pine seeds and cutthroat trout in the Yellowstone region has forced grizzlies to transition to a more meat-based diet, which has led to a greater potential for conflict with human hunting and livestock grazing, the environmental groups said.

Since grizzlies were listed as threatened in 1975, their numbers have more than doubled to above 600 in the region that includes Yellowstone and portions of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

The bears' Yellowstone population has been roughly level over the past decade.

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