

Comparison between the 2007 delisting rule and the planning 2015 delisting rule

Criterion	2007 delisting rule	2015 delisting rule
Area within which mortality limits apply	36,776 square miles	19,279 square miles
Mortality limits	To allow the population to be at least stable and to increase 95% of the time. “...simulations have shown that this level of adult female mortality rate allows a stable to increasing population 95% of the time.”	To stabilize the population and allow zero net growth. “Recommend a change in management objective from one of population growth for recovery to maintenance of a stable grizzly bear population, which was deemed biologically logical and desirable given the status of the population.”
Population goal	Increasing	Stable
States agreed not to institute a hunt immediately after delisting	Yes	No
Mortality limit for % of independent females	9%	7.6% (see table below for expected numbers using mark-resight and Chao2 estimators)
Mortality limit for % of independent males	15%	15% (see table below for expected numbers using mark-resight and Chao2 estimators)
Mortality limit for % of dependent young	9%	7.6% (see table below for expected numbers using mark-resight and Chao2 estimators)
Allocation process for managed mortalities	Not addressed	Allocation by % of each state inside the monitoring area and outside NPS lands

Population estimate in 2014	Total population of ~1200 using mark/resight method (the method expected to be used post-delisting)	Total population of 757 using Chao2 method (the method presently used)
Mortality limits	Inside the DMA to maintain a stable population in 2014	Inside the DMA to maintain a stable population in 2014
Independent females	25 (17) ¹	16 (17)
Independent males	49 (21) ¹	31 (21)
Dependent young (cubs and yearlings with their mothers not subject to hunting)	22	14
Average mortality/year from all sources over last 4 years (2011-2014)	38	38
Remaining potential independent grizzly bears “available” for hunting or other management purposes 25 + 49 = 74 – 38 = 36	36	9

¹ The numbers in parentheses are the 4-year average (2011 to 2014) of known + unknown deaths for independent females and males in the Yellowstone ecosystem.

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Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Fish and Wildlife Service Grizzly Bear Meeting
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites – Denver Airport
Denver, CO
February 18-19, 2015

February 18

12:00 Noon **Opening Comments/Agenda Review/Rules of the Road - Chris Smith**

12:15 PM **GYE GB Science - Frank Van Manen**

This portion of the meeting will consist of a series of brief presentations by Frank Van Manen covering the work of the study team. Topics covered will include:

1. Delineation and purpose of the Demographic Monitoring Area
2. Population estimation and trend analysis
3. Methods for determining sustainable mortality limits
4. Implications of revised population estimation methods/mortality limits on management flexibility

Following each topic presentation, there will be time for clarifying questions. Issues or policy-level questions that arise will be captured, but not discussed or debated at this stage. Breaks will be taken as needed.

2:15 PM **2007 Final Rule vs Proposed Strategy/Rule/Recovery Plan - Chris Servheen**

This portion of the meeting will be a “side-by-side” comparison of the 2007 Final Rule and the proposed conservation strategy/rule/recovery plan. Clarifying questions may be asked, but no discussion or debate will occur at this stage.

3:00 PM **State Perspectives & Concerns – Virgil Moore, Jeff Hagener, Scott Talbot**

This portion of the meeting will provide each state the opportunity to express their perspectives and/or concerns regarding the proposed conservation strategy/rule/recovery plan. Clarifying questions may be asked, but no discussion or debate will occur at this stage.

4:30 PM **Framing Issues for Discussion – Chris Smith**

This portion of the meeting will focus on defining the issues related to recovery, delisting and post-delisting management that need to be resolved for the states and FWS to move forward collaboratively. Issues will be identified and defined, but not discussed, negotiated or debated.

February 19

8:00 AM **Recap of yesterday/ground rules/goals - Chris Smith**

8:10 AM **Discussion and Resolution of Identified Issues – Chris Smith**

Issues identified will be addressed in sequence through discussion and, if necessary, negotiation and debate among policy-level representatives of the FWS and state agencies. The goal will be to resolve each issue to the satisfaction of all 3 states and the FWS. Failing that, the alternative will be to define a process through which the states and FWS will continue efforts to reach consensus. Breaks will be taken as necessary.

11:30 AM **Summary of Agreements and Clarifying Next Steps – Chris Smith**

This portion of the meeting will review agreements reached and any necessary follow-up actions by the parties.

12:00 Noon **Adjourn**