

C. Servheen
February 17, 2015

Briefing points for the Secretary for meeting with Montana Governor

Grizzly bear recovery issues in the NCDE:

- The Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) population in Montana is recovered and we are completing a post-delisting management plan called the Conservation Strategy that will be used to demonstrate the existence of adequate regulatory mechanisms when this population is proposed for delisting. This document went out for public comment in 2013 and we are incorporating these public and agency comments into this document. The completion of this document necessary for delisting has been on hold since summer 2014 due to issues raised by administrators in the MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department. We are currently negotiating with MT Fish Wildlife and Parks about their concerns. These same concerns exist in the Yellowstone ecosystem and as a result, progress on Yellowstone delisting has also been on hold since the summer of 2014. These concerns will have to be worked out before delisting can be proposed. If these concerns can be resolved, we can move ahead and propose delisting on the NCDE in 2016.