

From: Servheen, Chris
To: [Michael Thabault](#)
Subject: update
Date: Monday, April 06, 2015 10:31:47 AM

Mike,

I am assuming that there is little to report from Dan's meeting with the states. I am around most of this week if you and Matt want to talk.

I attach an email exchange I had last week with Jim Williams the MTFWP Regional Supervisor in Kalispell. He and Rick Mace (MTFWP's lead grizzly biologist) came up with an NCDE demographic management approach last summer that was excellent and that we could agree with and defend in court. The problem is that what they came up with is very different than the ideological approach put forth by Ken McDonald, which is what Montana is promoting in both Yellowstone and the NCDE.

Chris

Fair enough. Let me think about how to proceed. It's not as easy now.

Jim

-----Original Message-----

From: Servheen, Chris [<mailto:grizz@umontana.edu>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 4:11 PM

To: Williams, Jim

Cc: Mace, Rick

Subject: Re: NCDE demographic management

Jim,

While I agree with you on the overall assessment of the health of the population, there is a huge difference between what we (you, Rick, and I) came up with and what Ken wrote. His approach is to maintain 800 in the ecosystem while ours is 800 outside GNP. His results in a reduction of 150-250+ bears through managed population decline post-delisting. One approach is based on the data and is biologically and legally defensible, and the other is neither.

We must be able to defend what we propose because we will be challenged. Our chances in court are best when we base our approach on the data and on careful management not wholesale (-150 to -250 or -15% to -24%) population decline upon delisting. We owe it to the people we serve and the bears to propose a delisting rule that has maximum probability of legal success. The approach you guys and I developed has the best chance to succeed.

Chris

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"Try to learn something about everything and everything about something." - Thomas Huxley.