

From: Michael Thabault
To: [Gavin Shire](#)
Cc: [Serena Baker](#); [Brian Hires](#); [Vanessa Kauffman](#); [Chris Servheen](#); [Ryan Moehring](#); [Seth Willey](#); [Justin Shoemaker](#); [Robert Segin](#); [Will Meeks](#); [Wayne Kasworm](#)
Subject: Re: High Country News: Grizzly delisting decision
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2015 10:47:59 AM

We do not have a time line. There is much to do and much to resolve so I am not comfortable giving a timeline.

Michael Thabault
Assistant Regional Director
Ecological Services
Mountain Prairie Region

On Aug 20, 2015, at 10:04 AM, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov> wrote:

I think this is too much in response to the question asked. Do we have a timeline for our final delisting decision on the Grizzly (assuming Yellowstone)? We don't need a lot of detail, just a simple yes, we expect to make the decision by the end of 2015 (which is what the Director is on the record as having said, I think) or no, we don't have a timeline.

G

Gavin G. Shire
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gavin_shire@fws.gov

From: Serena Baker [mailto:serena_baker@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 11:06 AM
To: Brian Hires; Gavin Shire; Vanessa Kauffman
Cc: Michael Thabault; chris_servheen@fws.gov; Ryan Moehring; Seth Willey; Justin Shoemaker; Robert Segin; Will Meeks; Wayne Kasworm
Subject: RE: High Country News: Grizzly delisting decision

Good Morning All,

Yes, in September R6 will be addressing a petition by the Alliance for the Wild Rockies to list the Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear as endangered. Then, in November we'll be addressing a petition by Lincoln County, Montana to delist the Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear.

I combined and tweaked our team's suggestion:

We think this is more in relation to Greater Yellowstone.

Something along the lines of....

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mountain-Prairie Region is evaluating the "threatened" status of specific populations of grizzly bears under the Endangered Species Act. One such grizzly bear population under review is in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, located in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. There the grizzly bear population is robust and healthy. We are working with fellow federal, state, and local agencies; Tribes; and other stakeholders in this ecosystem to determine the best long-term management approach. No decision has been made, and there is no timeline established for any proposal. We have received petitions relative to other populations such as the Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear, located further north in Montana, Idaho, and Canada. Our reviews of those actions remain in progress and no determinations have been made.

Feel free to fine tune. Happy to share more information, if you need. But, I agree, we probably need more information from the reporter before responding. We'd also be interested in when Ms. Dickie's article will publish.

Thank you all!

Serena Baker

From: Brian Hires [mailto:brian_hires@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 8:00 AM
To: Gavin Shire; Serena Baker; Vanessa Kauffman
Subject: RE: High Country News: Grizzly delisting decision

Also, I believe the upcoming September 90-day finding on the Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear is in response to a petition to list this population as endangered. I can share more details on that if helpful.

[Brian Hires](#)

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From: Gavin Shire [mailto:gavin_shire@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 9:44 AM
To: Serena Baker; Vanessa Kauffman; Brian Hires
Subject: RE: High Country News: Grizzly delisting decision

Serena/Vanessa,

Is this inquiry about the Cabinet-Yaak population or the Yellowstone? He doesn't specify, so unless we are sure which one he's referring to, I'd ask him. Dan has publicly said that we'll make a decision on the Yellowstone population by the end of the year,

which makes me think it may be that one he means. I haven't seen the AP story he refers to.

G

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From: Serena Baker [mailto:serena_baker@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 8:15 PM
To: Vanessa Kauffman
Cc: Gavin Shire
Subject: RE: High Country News: Grizzly delisting decision

Hi Vanessa,

Thank you very much for forwarding the reporter question. I've proposed to team a response along the lines of:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mountain-Prairie Region has received a petition to delist the Cabinet-Yaak population of grizzly bears, which is located in Montana, Idaho, and Canada. Our team of biologists are reviewing the language of the petition, the best available science, and on-the-ground monitoring surveys of this specific population of grizzly bears in order to determine if its "threatened" status under the Endangered Species Act is still appropriate. We anticipate publishing our decision as a 90-day finding in the Federal Register. This decision will not impact any other population of grizzly bears.

I'll let you know as soon as I hear back.

Thanks again! Serena

From: Vanessa Kauffman [mailto:vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 4:26 PM
To: Gavin Shire; Serena Baker; Ryan Moehring; Robert Segin
Subject: FW: High Country News: Grizzly delisting decision

See inquiry. Cc'ing the region.

Best,
Vanessa C. Kauffman
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From: Gloria Dickie [mailto:gloriad@hcn.org]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 5:14 PM
To: Vanessa_Kauffman@fws.gov
Subject: High Country News: Grizzly delisting decision

Hi Vanessa,

I'm a reporter with High Country News and I wanted to confirm something I read in a recent AP story, that said the decision on the grizzly's bear delisting will be made by the end of the year. Is that correct? Is there any current timeline?

Best,

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Gloria Dickie
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