

A brief overview of what needs to be done to get to a delisting proposal in Yellowstone:

A. Revise the demographic criteria in the Yellowstone chapter of the Recovery Plan. Lead: FWS with States, YNP, GTNP.

- Revise demographic criteria in the Yellowstone chapter of the Recovery Plan to maintain a stable population at the 2007 Chao2-measured level of 683 bears within the Demographic Monitoring Area.
 - o Revise demographic criterion 1 to reflect that the population will be counted annually by the IGBST using the Chao2 method and that the 500 number is a minimum number of bears in the population necessary for minimum loss of genetic diversity over time and not a demographic population target.
 - o Revise demographic criterion 3 to reflect that instead of population stability post-delisting (as proposed in the 2013 revisions), the management objective will be to set mortality limits for each sex/age cohort to stabilize the population at the 2007 Chao2 number of 683. This may result in population decline depending on the current Chao2 population estimate.

B. Revise the demographic and habitat sections of the Conservation Strategy (CS) to reflect the changes in the demographic criteria in the Yellowstone chapter of the Recovery Plan. Lead: - Joint effort of all agencies – FWS with USFS, States, YNP, GTNP.

- Simultaneous with the revision of the recovery plan chapter, revise the demographic sections of the Conservation Strategy (CS) including:
 - o Update maps to reflect the DMA as the mortality monitoring area.
 - o Rewrite Chapter 2 (population standards and monitoring) and revise portions of Chapter 6 (implementation and evaluation). Also Appendix B and Appendix C will have to be revised to reflect the new demographic approach and the implementation protocol to apply the new approach.
- Revise the habitat section, Chapter 3, of the CS including:
 - o Update some of the USFS habitat monitoring techniques
 - o Update the reporting requirements for habitat based on these new techniques.

C. Revise the demographic and habitat sections of the Proposed Rule to reflect the changes in the demographic criteria in the Yellowstone chapter of the Recovery Plan and CS and changes in the habitat section of the CS. Lead: FWS.

- o Update new information on white bark pine and its health and relationship to the health of the grizzly population. This will involve incorporation of the extensive new scientific literature developed by the Study Team on the response of grizzly bears to declines in white bark pine in the Yellowstone ecosystem.
- o Incorporate the new demographic approach outlined in the framework document.

- o Incorporate the revised recovery criteria in the revised recovery plan chapter and how these have been met to achieve recovery.
- o Detail how adequate regulatory mechanisms will be in place upon delisting. These will include the management responses to departures from demographic criteria and departures from habitat criteria, and the other responses outlined in the framework document.

D. Revise state regulations and policies to reflect regulatory/management responses to departures from demographic criteria. Implement policy to preclude discretionary mortality in genetic linkage areas between the NCDE and Yellowstone in Montana. Lead: States.

- o Change and update regulations and commission in policy to reflect the necessary regulatory/management responses in state rules and policy.

E. Hold a habitat-based recovery criteria workshop in the Yellowstone ecosystem. Lead: FWS with USFS, YNP, GTNP.

- o Hold a habitat-based recovery criteria workshop in the Yellowstone ecosystem prior to the publication of the proposed rule in order to comply with the court settlement on the Recovery Plan lawsuit. Schedule this workshop and publish a Federal Register notice announcing the workshop approximately 60 days before the workshop.