

**From:** Matt Hogan  
**To:** [Gavin Shire](#); [Chris Servheen](#); [Will Meeks](#); [Ryan Moehring](#); [Michael Thabault](#)  
**Cc:** [Seth Willey](#); [serena\\_baker@fws.gov](mailto:serena_baker@fws.gov); [Betsy Hildebrandt](#); [Matthew Huggler](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Draft talking points to announce the decision to move forward with a delisting proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:43:52 AM

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I don't think we want to be too proactive. However, the Director said in the EPW hearing we were moving towards delisting and we also have a letter to the 3 range states that says the same with a deadline of having a proposal out by year end. So, if media is paying attention, it's out there. I don't anticipate the states will release the letter but there is nothing stopping them from doing it and/or having a governor make an off the cuff remark. This is becoming a high conflict year for GB with many encounters with hunters and others so attention to the overall issue is high.

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**From:** Gavin Shire [mailto:[gavin\\_shire@fws.gov](mailto:gavin_shire@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 5:42 AM  
**To:** Chris Servheen; Will Meeks; Ryan Moehring; Matt Hogan; Michael Thabault  
**Cc:** Seth Willey; [serena\\_baker@fws.gov](mailto:serena_baker@fws.gov); Betsy Hildebrandt; Matthew Huggler  
**Subject:** Re: Draft talking points to announce the decision to move forward with a delisting proposal

Can you tell me how you anticipate these will be used? Are we being proactive or reactive? If the latter, how do we anticipate the news getting put?

G

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 30, 2015, at 7:25 PM, Ryan Moehring <[ryan\\_moehring@fws.gov](mailto:ryan_moehring@fws.gov)> wrote:

[Adding Serena to the string.](#)

**From:** Servheen, Chris [mailto:[chris\\_servheen@fws.gov](mailto:chris_servheen@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:02 PM  
**To:** Michael Thabault; Will Meeks; Seth Willey; Ryan Moehring; Gavin Shire; Matt Hogan  
**Subject:** Draft talking points to announce the decision to move forward with a delisting proposal

To date our public position has been that the Director has not reached a decision to move forward with a delisting proposal. Here are a few talking points to announce a change in this position:

- The Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reached a decision and has directed Service biologists to develop a proposal to delist the Yellowstone grizzly population based on the fact that the population is recovered and adequate regulatory mechanisms are in place to assure the long-term health of this important grizzly population and its habitat.
- This process will involve publishing a proposed rule in the Federal Register to delist the Yellowstone grizzly population, followed by a public comment period and public hearings. There will also be peer review of the proposal. The publication of the proposal and the start of the public comment process is still several months away. Upon completion of the public comment process, the Service will evaluate the comments and the peer reviews and

make a decision to move forward with delisting or not.

- This proposal will only potentially impact the Yellowstone grizzly population. All other grizzly bear populations in the states of Montana, Idaho, and Washington will remain listed.
- The objective of the Endangered Species Act (Act) is to get listed species to the point at which protection under the Act is no longer required. Thus, eventual recovery and delisting is the objective of the Act and all the work the agencies have been doing to recover this grizzly population over the past 35 years has been directed toward this delisting objective.

Chris

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