

From: Will Meeks
To: [Matt Hogan](#)
Cc: [Gavin Shire](#); [Ryan Moehring](#); [Michael Thabault](#); [Seth Willey](#); [Serena Baker](#); [Betsy Hildebrandt](#); [Matthew Huggler](#); [Chris Servheen](#)
Subject: Re: Draft talking points to announce the decision to move forward with a delisting proposal
Date: Thursday, October 01, 2015 8:08:16 AM

Sure thing.

Will Meeks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain Prairie Region
Assistant Regional Director
External Affairs (acting through October 2015)
303-236-4510 (w)
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On Oct 1, 2015, at 8:07 AM, Matt Hogan <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov> wrote:

I suggest a call to discuss. Will, can you take the lead to set something up. Thanks.

From: Servheen, Chris [mailto:chris_servheen@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 8:05 AM
To: Matt Hogan
Cc: Gavin Shire; Will Meeks; Ryan Moehring; Michael Thabault; Seth Willey; Serena Baker; Betsy Hildebrandt; Matthew Huggler
Subject: Re: Draft talking points to announce the decision to move forward with a delisting proposal

My suggestion would be to be proactive and put out a press release. This is a very high interest issue with multiple news media having asked about this repeatedly. I would prefer that we take a proactive approach announcing the decision to move forward before some news person finds out and writes an incomplete story about it. A news release will allow us to point to that as the facts on this issue.
Chris

On Thu, Oct 1, 2015 at 7:43 AM, Matt Hogan <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov> wrote:
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.

From: Gavin Shire [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; 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> wrote:

[Adding Serena to the string.](#)

From: Servheen, Chris [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.

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