

From: [Will Meeks](#)
To: [Matt Hogan](#)
Subject: FW: Holding statement
Date: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 12:16:18 PM

You OK with this?

Will Meeks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6
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From: Dreher, Robert [mailto:robert_dreher@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Betsy Hildebrandt; Will Meeks; Matt Hogan; Dan Ashe; Gary Frazer
Subject: Re: Holding statement

Will, Betsy shared your proposed holding statement on grizzly bear. I think the general tenor of the holding statement is fine, but it strikes me as conveying too definite a sense that we have made a final decision to move forward with a delisting proposal. I think that may be premature, and may strike some of our stakeholders as our having made up our minds before talking with them. We still need to evaluate the IGBC's new conservation strategy to be sure we have an adequate regulatory framework in place for the management of the bear, and we need to meet with the environmental groups (and possibly tribes) before we reach a decision to go forward. So I would suggest:

The Service is evaluating whether to propose delisting the Yellowstone grizzly population. The Service believes that recovery goals for the Yellowstone grizzly population have been met, and is evaluating whether adequate regulatory mechanisms will be in place to ensure the long-term persistence of this important grizzly population and its habitat. We are hopeful that a proposal may be ready for public review in the next few months.

On Tue, Oct 6, 2015 at 1:53 PM, Hildebrandt, Betsy <betsy_hildebrandt@fws.gov> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Will Meeks <will_meeks@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, Oct 6, 2015 at 11:17 AM
Subject: Holding statement
To: Betsy Hildebrandt <betsy_hildebrandt@fws.gov>

Betsy,

Here is the holding statement that Matt and Noreen liked.

So you are in the loop, we have had a couple media inquiries.

The Service is developing a proposal to delist the Yellowstone grizzly population based on the Service's belief that recovery goals have been met and that adequate regulatory mechanisms will be in place to ensure the long-term persistence of this important grizzly population and its habitat. We anticipate the proposal will be ready for public review in the next few months.

Will Meeks
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Bob Dreher
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