

FWS Talking Points for the YES Meeting

- The Fish and Wildlife Service believes that the recovery goals for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) population of grizzly bears have been met.
- For the Service to delist a species, we need to not only determine that the recovery goal for the species has been met but we also have to do the same 5 factor analysis we do to decide if a species is warranted for listing.
- Those factors include 1) the status of the species habitat; 2) potential for over-utilization; 3) disease or predation; 4) the existence of adequate regulatory mechanism; and 5) other natural or man-made factors affecting its continued existence.
- The Service is currently evaluating whether adequate regulatory mechanisms will be in place if the GYE grizzly bear population is delisted that will ensure it's long term persistence.
- For the last few months, we have had on-going discussions, mainly with our state fish and wildlife agency partners, about various issues associated with management of the grizzly bear if they were to be delisted.
- Specifically, we have been talking to them about post delisting discretionary mortality as well as state regulations that would be in place to manage grizzly bears if they were delisted.
- The Service has also been working with the federal land management agencies on regulatory mechanisms protecting the habitat of the grizzly bear.
- If and when we reach consensus that adequate regulatory mechanisms are or will be in place, the Service would proceed with a proposal to delist.
- The Service is hopeful that we can determine that in the near future, and if so, have a proposal to delist ready in the next few months.
- As in any delisting, that proposal would be subject to both peer review and well as public review and comment.
- The Service is also very cognizant of the role that YES plays in approving changes to the Conservation Strategy and we want to be respectful of that process. Accordingly, any suggested changes to the Conservation Strategy will not be finalized without the approval of YES.

- We are committed to working with YES to find a process that works both for this committee and for the Service.
- In addition to review and approval by YES, we would anticipate that signatories to the Conservation Strategy would have to signify their support by re-signing the Conservation Strategy.
- The Conservation Strategy was last signed in 2007 when the Service last proposed to delist the GYE population of grizzly bears.
- Signatories to the Conservation Strategy include the Northern, Rocky Mountain, and Intermountain Regions of the Forest Service; the intermountain region of the National Park Service; the Central Region for USGS; the state directors for the BLM for ID, MT, and WY; the states of ID, MT and WY; and the Services' Pacific and Mountain-Prairie Regions.