

From: Bush, Jodi
To: [Willey, Seth](#); [Jessica Evans](#)
Cc: [Sattelberg, Mark](#); [Justin Shoemaker](#); [Chris Servheen](#); [Serena Baker](#); [Brian Hires](#); [Ryan Moehring](#)
Subject: Re: Q on Grizzly and Bison
Date: Monday, November 02, 2015 8:36:16 AM

Less of an issue but certainly still one that we need to make sure we have messaging about...

and my response was based on what Jessi said below and since I haven't seen any traffic on this topic I didn't know otherwise...

"Second, the yellowstone bison, Im thinking it may be listing, but since your in the same region I thought you may know if this finding may be controversial also"

Jodi L. Bush
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On Mon, Nov 2, 2015 at 8:27 AM, Willey, Seth <seth_willey@fws.gov> wrote:

Just to be clear, we are issuing a not substantial finding. Given that Jodi, do you still think folks will be that concerned?

Seth

On Monday, November 2, 2015, Sattelberg, Mark <mark_sattelberg@fws.gov> wrote:

Jodi,

I think the main concerns will be out of MT, although WY will certainly raise issues too (grazing is second only to energy extraction). I agree with everything else you stated.

Mark

R. Mark Sattelberg
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On Mon, Nov 2, 2015 at 8:04 AM, Bush, Jodi <jodi_bush@fws.gov> wrote:

Jessi. I think Yellowstone Bison is going to get alot more attention than you folks are thinking. Its a Huge button pusher here in MT, although I am not as sure about what Wyoming Partners think. That said -we will be better off if we can make sure that any early information about where we are headed gets to the field so we can start to get the

message out.

This is likely to be a big issue for the NWRs too, although I'm not sure where Yellowstone Bison that we have already moved away from the main herd fit in to this picture.

I've cc'd Mark Sattleberg - the Wyoming Field Supervisor on this email to get his input.
JB

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On Fri, Oct 30, 2015 at 6:15 PM, Ryan Moehring <ryan_moehring@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi all,

Adding Serena from our office to this thread, as she is the EA lead for us on this batch. I agree with what Seth said below, particularly given the nature of the findings. Additional food for thought: Yellowstone grizz are likely to see increasing media attention in the coming days/weeks. The public may have difficulty drawing distinctions between the various populations, possibly resulting in a conflation between C-Y and GYE. There are some outreach opportunities here to help make those distinctions and underscore all that we are doing for grizz across its range.

Thanks,

-Ryan

Ryan Moehring

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From: Willey, Seth [mailto:seth_willey@fws.gov]

Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 5:10 PM

To: Evans, Jessica; Justin Shoemaker; Chris Servheen; Jodi Bush; Ryan Moehring

Subject: Re: Q on Grizzly and Bison

Hey Jessi,

Here are some quick thoughts. I'll let Justin add to this as necessary. Also cc'ng our grizzly bear coordinator, our MT field office supervisor and Ryan Moehring in external affairs in case they have more to add.

My initial thoughts on relative level of controversy:

- Yellowstone bison. Most of the concerns with this one are around what happens to the bison when they migrate from the park (no longer protected) and concern over brucellosis spreading to cattle. Thus, you could see animal rights groups and ranching interests. And it's a charismatic species, so there is that automatic interest. That said, overall, I would expect interest to be fairly modest.
- grizzly bear in the Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem. I think announcing these together could temper some of the controversy for this one. Telling the story as neither extreme is right helps (no it does not warrant E and no it does not warrant delisting either; the current status in the middle, T, is biologically and legally right). Local folks around this ecosystem view the bears listed status as an economic issue and Federal government intrusion issue. On the other side, this bear population was warranted for E status for a very long so some on the left think it still warrants it. And grizzly bears by their nature are controversial. That said, this is a lower interest decision than most grizzly bear announcements. Some interest is certainly going to happen (more than yellowstone bison, likely), but not a ton in my opinion.

Thanks,

Seth

Seth L. Willey

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On Thu, Oct 29, 2015 at 1:23 PM, Evans, Jessica <jessica_evans@fws.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon Seth -

Im the HQ lead for the November batch of 90d findings. Im currently working on getting the BP together and had a Q about the grizzly petitions and the petition for the Yellowstone bison. I touched base with Don, he recommended I contact you.

Since we had two petitions for the grizzly, going in opposite directions, do you anticipate there will be a lot of controversy with the findings? I looked through the BP we have but no mention was made of whether it is thought it will be controversial. If so, can you give me a very brief (2-3 sentences) describing who and why? If it is not, thats good. I just wanted to double check.

Second, the yellowstone bison, Im thinking it may be listing, but since your in the same region I thought you may know if this finding may be controversial also.

Thanks so much!

--

Jessi Evans

Biologist

Branch of Foreign Species

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"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." -Francis of Assisi

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