

From: [Richard Hannan](#)
To: [Gary Frazer](#); [Noreen Walsh](#); [Matt Hogan](#); [Chris Servheen](#); [Bob Dreher](#); [Jason Holm](#); [Dan Ashe](#); [Betsy Hildebrandt](#); [Michael Thabault](#); [Robyn Thorson](#)
Subject: Fwd: Article
Date: Thursday, November 05, 2015 3:21:30 PM

This was just forwarded to me. Came out of the blue at least to me. The story is superficial and does not tell a complete story. Regardless it is out there and I wanted you to be aware of it. Rich

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Carrier, Michael" <michael_carrier@fws.gov>
Date: November 5, 2015 at 3:12:22 PM MST
To: Richard Hannan <richard_hannan@fws.gov>, Theresa Rabot <theresa_rabot@fws.gov>
Subject: Article

I don't recall hearing about this before the announcement at YES meeting this week. Don't know if it's a wild card or what.

Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear population shows significant decline according to data from IGBC subcommittee at Jackson, WY meeting

by [RALPH MAUGHAN](#) on NOVEMBER 5, 2015 · [LEAVE A COMMENT](#) · in [GRIZZLY BEARS](#), [WILDLIFE NEWS](#), [WYOMING](#), [YELLOWSTONE](#)

GYE estimated grizzly population down by 43 bears, 6%, since 2015 say gov't wildlife biologists

At the Jackson, Wyoming meeting of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee's Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee (IGBC/YES), a population figure of 714 grizzlies was announced yesterday. In 2014 the number was 757. The latter is a figure close to the estimate of 750 bears that has held since 2003.

The population estimate each year is taken as the bears emerge from their winter dens. Because at least 54 grizzly bears have died or been killed already in 2015, the actual number of grizzlies on the land today is no greater than 714-54

(460). IGBT Team leader Frank van Manen tried for optimism saying that is figure was within the range of variability for an estimate on a population that is in fact stable. He said “there’s no evidence of a major change in the long-term trend of the population.” This almost true by definition because it will take two data points (2015 and 2016) to show a trend.

Many non-government grizzly bear biologists have been predicting a downturn for a while now. Government biologists have said the grizzlies are doing well with a stable population. A view common to some of the folks living in the Greater Yellowstone is that the bear population growing rapidly — the reason grizzlies are seen at times near the far edges of the **Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem** (GYE), such as NW of Cody, not far from Lander, WY, or along the Snake River near Ashton or Parker, ID. A view that is perhaps more data based is that the same, or now a smaller number of grizzlies, are spreading out from Yellowstone in search of food. The food sources in or adjacent to Yellowstone Park are failing because of the death of so many whitebark pine nut trees, and of Yellowstone cutthroat trout (eaten by the illegally introduced lake trout).

The controversy is taking place while the background is U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director Dan Ashe saying he is only interested in delisting the grizzly because it is now safe in the GYE.

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