



## LEGAL NOTICE

# **Proposed Delisting for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Grizzly Bear**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is proposing to revise the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, by removing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) population of grizzly bears from the list of threatened species. We are simultaneously publishing for public comment drafts of the proposed rule delisting the GYE grizzly bear population, the Recovery Plan Supplement: Revised Demographic Criteria, and the 2016 Conservation Strategy for the GYE grizzly bear population.

Grizzly bear recovery in the GYE has been a remarkable success story under the Endangered Species Act, rebounding from as few as 136 grizzly bears in Yellowstone when the bear was listed as threatened in 1975 to more than 700 grizzly bears today in the GYE. The Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team carefully monitors population size, numbers of females with cubs, population health, food habits, distribution, and mortality rates of the GYE grizzly bear population. The Study Team has concluded that the population has more than doubled their range since 1975 and that the population is now essentially stable, indicating that the GYE is at or near its carrying capacity for grizzly bears. The Service has determined that threats to the GYE grizzly bears and their habitat have lessened such that they are no longer a threat to the continued health of the GYE grizzly bear population.

More information can be found at <http://www.regulations.gov>, reference docket number FWS-R6-ES-2016-0042. The Service invites public comment on the proposed rule for a 60-day period. After the public comment period, the Service will decide if the rule should be approved, revised or withdrawn. This process encourages the participation of all interested parties, including the general public. Comments must be received on or before May 10, 2016. The Service will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means the agency will post any personal information provided through the process. Email or faxes will not be accepted.

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:** Electronically: Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2016-0042, which is the docket number for this rulemaking. Then, click on the Search button. On the resulting page, in the Search panel on the left side of the screen, under Document Type heading, click on the Proposed Rules link to locate this document. You may submit a comment by clicking on the blue "Comment Now!" box. By postal service: Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2016-0042, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Two informational sessions and public hearings will be held on this proposed rule. The first is scheduled on April 11, 2016, at the Holiday Inn, 1701 Sheridan Ave, Cody, WY. The second is scheduled on April 12, 2016, at the Holiday Inn, 5 Baxter Lane, Bozeman, MT. At both locations the public informational session will run from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, followed by public

speaker registration at 4:30 PM, and then the public hearing for oral testimony from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

A copy of the finding and other information about the grizzly bear is available online at <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/grizzlyBear.php> or by contacting the Dr. Christopher Servheen, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator, at 406-243-4903. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), please call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.