

# News Release



**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
134 Union Boulevard  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228**

For Immediate Release  
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## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Host Public Meetings on Proposed Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Population Delisting**

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**LAKEWOOD, Colo.** – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will host two informational open house meetings and public hearings on the Yellowstone grizzly bear population proposed delisting rule on April 11-12, 2016, in Cody, Wyo. and Bozeman, Mont.

The Service is accepting comments on the proposed delisting rule, a draft supplement to the 1993 Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan for the Yellowstone grizzly bear population, and a draft conservation strategy. These documents will ensure robust monitoring of Yellowstone grizzly bears, balanced management and effective conservation going forward. The Service is committed to making a final decision whether or not to delist the Yellowstone grizzly bear population on the best available scientific and commercial information.

Informational open house meetings will be held from 2-4 p.m., when you will be able to ask Service employees questions, and learn from educational posters. Public hearings will be held from 5-8 p.m., when you will have an opportunity to make public comments limited to three minutes per person. You are invited to attend either or both sessions at the locations below:

**April 11, 2016**  
Holiday Inn  
1701 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, Wyoming 82414

**April 12, 2016**  
Holiday Inn  
5 E. Baxter Ln.  
Bozeman, Montana 59715

The recovery of the grizzly bear in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho during the last three decades stands as one of America's great conservation successes—a testament to the value of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the strong partnerships it drives. The Yellowstone grizzly bear population has rebounded from as few as 136 bears in 1975 to an estimated 700 or more today.

Population and habitat monitoring efforts undertaken by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team indicate that grizzly bears have more than doubled their range since the mid-1970s. They now occupy more than 22,500 square miles of the Yellowstone ecosystem, an area larger than the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island combined. Stable population numbers for grizzlies for more than a decade also indicate that the Yellowstone ecosystem is at or near its carrying capacity for grizzly bears.

If you are unable to attend the informational open house meetings or public hearings, you may also submit comments at <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter Docket Number FWS–R6–ES–2016–0042, and then click on the “Comment Now!” button. The Service will post all information received on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This may include any personal information that is provided.

Comments will also be accepted via U.S. mail or hand-delivery: Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–R6–ES–2016–0042, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803. The Service will consider all comments, with an emphasis on all unique issues raised, prior to making a final decision. Comments are requested by May 10, 2016.

To view the proposed rule published in the *Federal Register*, or learn more about the Yellowstone grizzly bear population, visit <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/grizzlyBear.php>.

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service.*

For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/>. Connect with our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/USFWSMountainPrairie>, follow our tweets at <http://twitter.com/USFWSMtnPrairie>, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmtnp/albums/>.

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