

**From:** chris\_servheen@fws.gov  
**To:** [Jodi Bush](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Some perspective on the revised recovery plan demographic criteria  
**Date:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 10:22:01 AM  
**Attachments:** [RP supplement Yellowstone Grizzly bear Demographic Criteria final September 2014.docx](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

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FYI

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Servheen, Chris" <[chris\\_servheen@fws.gov](mailto:chris_servheen@fws.gov)>  
**Date:** January 9, 2016 at 10:57:11 AM MST  
**To:** Michael Thabault <[michael\\_thabault@fws.gov](mailto:michael_thabault@fws.gov)>, Matt Hogan  
<[matt\\_hogan@fws.gov](mailto:matt_hogan@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** **Some perspective on the revised recovery plan demographic criteria**

Mike and Matt,

For reference, please remember that we spent 2012 to 2013 preparing revisions to the Yellowstone demographic recovery criteria with all agency partners, and then put these out for public comment for 90 days in early 2013.

During the comment period, which closed in June of 2013, WY commented and supported these new criteria and MT and ID did not comment. More than 40,000 comments were received on the draft recovery criteria during the public comment period.

We then prepared the final revised criteria in the summer of 2014 and as part of it responded to the detailed comments we received during the comment period (attached). It might be useful for you to read the major public comment issues starting on page 9 of the attached document.

The issue of linkage with the NCDE was a major comment issue and we addressed that in the revised criteria. How will we address this linkage issue in another version of these criteria?

We were ready to publish these final revisions to the RP simultaneous with publication of the proposed delisting rule (which was written) in late 2014 - early 2015. By September 2014 the proposed delisting rule had been reviewed by the RO and the solicitors and was ready to move through higher review and surname. Then, in September of 2014 (15 months after the comment period on the revised recovery criteria had closed), the states decided they did not want stable population

management as described in the revised criteria, and went to the RO about this. 17 months later, the delisting of the Yellowstone population is still on hold.

For your information, I attach the final Yellowstone demographic recovery criteria that we were ready to publish in late 2014. Revising these now will of course require another public comment and peer review process.

Chris

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"Try to learn something about everything and everything about something." - Thomas Huxley.