

**From:** Serena Baker  
**To:** [Michael Thabault](#); [Marjorie Nelson](#); [Christopher Servheen Ph. D.](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer](#)  
**Cc:** [Matt Hogan](#); [Anna Muñoz](#); [Kenneth G. Ostrand Ph. D.](#); [Gavin Shire](#)  
**Subject:** Re: questions from LA Times editorial writer on the proposed delisting of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly  
**Date:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 1:44:59 PM

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Hi folks,

I talked to Carla Hall and written answers are just fine with her, but she would like them sooner rather than later. Her goal is to take our written answers back to the editorial board, to determine whether or not they will write an editorial. I warned her many of us are on the road today, but promised to touch base with her first thing tomorrow morning. Thanks!

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Serena Baker  
Public Affairs Specialist  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Mountain-Prairie Region 6  
134 Union Boulevard, Suite 400  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Desk: 303.236.4588  
Cell: 720.391.6583  
[Serena\\_Baker@fws.gov](mailto:Serena_Baker@fws.gov)

On Apr 14, 2016, at 10:57 AM, Serena Baker <[serena\\_baker@fws.gov](mailto:serena_baker@fws.gov)> wrote:

Good morning team,

Matt and I talked, and he would prefer that we reply in writing. He also asked if Chris you and Mike would take the first stab at drafting responses. Please let me know if I can be helpful. I'll let you know their deadline as soon as I hear back from them.

Thanks!

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
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Lakewood, CO 80228  
Desk: 303.236.4588  
Cell: 720.391.6583  
[Serena\\_Baker@fws.gov](mailto:Serena_Baker@fws.gov)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Serena Baker <[serena\\_baker@fws.gov](mailto:serena_baker@fws.gov)>  
**Date:** April 14, 2016 at 9:10:21 AM MDT  
**To:** Matt Hogan <[matt\\_hogan@fws.gov](mailto:matt_hogan@fws.gov)>, Anna Muñoz <[anna\\_munoz@fws.gov](mailto:anna_munoz@fws.gov)>, Michael Thabault <[michael\\_thabault@fws.gov](mailto:michael_thabault@fws.gov)>, "Kenneth G. Ostrand Ph. D." <[kenneth\\_ostrand@fws.gov](mailto:kenneth_ostrand@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Gavin Shire <[gavin\\_shire@fws.gov](mailto:gavin_shire@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: questions from LA Times editorial writer on the proposed delisting of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly

Hi Team,

Please see LA Times editorial inquiry below. I will check to see what is her timeline. If immediate, perhaps even Matt and Chris and I could call her before we leave today. Or, if we have some time would you prefer a different tact?

Including HQ EA. Thanks!

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Serena Baker  
Public Affairs Specialist  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Mountain-Prairie Region 6  
134 Union Boulevard, Suite 400  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Desk: 303.236.4588  
Cell: 720.391.6583  
[Serena\\_Baker@fws.gov](mailto:Serena_Baker@fws.gov)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Hall, Carla" <[Carla.Hall@latimes.com](mailto:Carla.Hall@latimes.com)>  
**Date:** April 13, 2016 at 8:11:31 PM MDT  
**To:** "[serena\\_baker@fws.gov](mailto:serena_baker@fws.gov)" <[serena\\_baker@fws.gov](mailto:serena_baker@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** questions from LA Times editorial writer on the proposed delisting of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly

Hi, Serena,

I have seen the proposed rule change and have some questions. Would it be possible to talk to you or an expert, perhaps Dr.

**Servheen, about the de-listing? (Or perhaps you are an expert on all this!)**

**I know the Service has meticulously tracked the numbers and distribution of grizzlies over the years and now say the population is 717 bears and that the grizzly has tripled its range since being listed. I know the Service says it has accomplished the goals of the recovery plan. I know FWS looks at three demographic criteria: is the minimum pop large enough to maintain genetic integrity; the distribution of the population, and “total mortality limits” (meaning that the number that die don’t leave the population depleted?) But beyond that I have some questions:**

**1)How did the FWS come to decide that 500 was the absolute minimum number and that over 674 was very good for this population. I understand that the Service has said that that can be maintained-- but why is that the correct number to maintain?**

**2)One critic of the delisting told me that the GYE population is isolated and until the Service can improve connectivity between all the ecosystems, then genetic diversity of the species won’t be maintained—or improved. What are your thoughts on that?**

**3)And why de-list this one ecosystem? I’ve heard it’s important that all ecosystems are thriving and sustainable before any of them get de-listed. What are your thoughts on that?**

**4)Will the biggest difference for the de-listed Yellowstone grizzlies be that they will now be transferred to state management which can set up hunting programs (with numerous restraints and guidelines—I've read the Wyoming plan) and choose how to handle trouble grizzlies—whether relocating or killing?**

**5)I've heard that if grizzlies are de-listed and roam out of the DMA, then anything can happen to them—they can be hunted without strict regulation. Is this a concern?**

**6)Why is the Service not concerned about the demise of whitebark pine? Is this because you think that grizzlies, which are opportunistic eaters, have replaced it with something else? And if it's ungulates, doesn't a greater dependency on ungulates end up with more grizzlies in more trouble—feasting on livestock, fighting each other for carcasses...**

**Thanks so much for your help on this.**

**Carla Hall**

LA Times editorial writer  
office: 213-237-6058  
cell: 310-497-9944