



March 17, 2016

Daniel Ashe
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C. Street, NW Room 3331
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dr. Christopher Servheen
Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
University Hall, Room #309
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812

Re: Public comment period and hearings concerning Greater Yellowstone Area grizzly bear delisting proposal

Dear Director Ashe and Dr. Servheen:

I am writing on behalf of Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Endangered Species Coalition, Gallatin Wildlife Association, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, National Parks Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, Park County Environmental Council, Sierra Club, The Cougar Fund, Western Watersheds Project, WildEarth Guardians, and Wyoming Wildlife Advocates to respectfully request that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service extend the period for public comment and schedule additional public informational meetings and public hearings concerning your pending proposal to remove the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem population of grizzly bears from the federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife. 81 Fed. Reg. 13,174 (March 11, 2016) [Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2016-0042; FXES11130900000C6-156-FF09E42000].

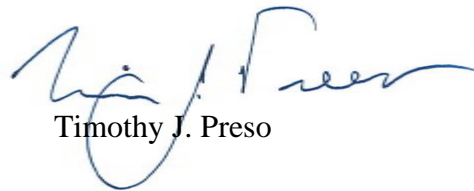
The proposed action relies on an extensive body of new information beyond the proposed rule, including the Draft 2016 Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem; the Draft Supplement: Draft Revised Demographic Recovery Criteria for the Yellowstone Ecosystem; a substantial catalog of cited literature; and grizzly bear management plans for the states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Review and analysis of this large body of new and, in some cases, forthcoming material is necessary to formulate informed and meaningful public comment for your agency's consideration but is difficult to accomplish within the allotted 60-day comment period set forth in your proposal. Accordingly, I respectfully request that you extend the public comment period on this proposal for at least an additional 60 days, to allow for a 120-day comment period dating from March 11, 2016.

Informed and meaningful public review and comment would be further facilitated by scheduling additional public informational meetings and public hearings concerning this

proposal. Your agency has scheduled only two such public events in connection with this action, one on April 11, 2016 in Cody, Wyoming, and another on April 12, 2016, in Bozeman, Montana. There is extremely high public interest in your proposed action and interested members of the public occupy a much broader geographic area than is represented by the two existing hearing locations. Accordingly, I further respectfully request that you schedule additional public informational meetings and public hearings concerning this proposal, including, at a minimum, in Jackson, Wyoming; Gardiner, Montana; Denver, Colorado; and Boise, Idaho.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Please contact me with any questions or to further discuss these matters.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Preso", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Timothy J. Preso