

From: Backsen, Sarah
To: [Alexandra Kasdin](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer](#); [Jodi Bush](#); [Maricela Constantino](#); [Marjorie Nelson](#); [Serena Baker](#); [Seth Willey](#); [Tyson Powell](#)
Subject: Fwd: GB comment summary
Date: Friday, June 24, 2016 1:04:04 PM

Hi all,

Below is what I sent to Mike last week (for him to provide to Matt as talking points). Numbers have been very slightly updated since, so as discussed on the call, we would probably summarize as: More than 165,000 comments, over 95% of these were form letters, and they reduced down to around 14,000 "unique" comments that we reviewed.

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****Please note the name change and new email address!****

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Thabault, Michael** <michael_thabault@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Jun 17, 2016 at 9:54 AM
Subject: Re: GB comment summary
To: "Backsen, Sarah" <sarah_backsen@fws.gov>
Cc: Marjorie Nelson <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>

Perfect. Thanks.

Michael Thabault
Assistant Regional Director
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On Fri, Jun 17, 2016 at 9:52 AM, Backsen, Sarah <sarah_backsen@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi Mike, will this work?...

Yellowstone grizzly bear proposed delisting rule public comments:

- We received approximately 165,000 comments on the proposed rule.
- About 95% of those were form letters or petitions from seven different NGOs.
- After removing duplicates, we are reviewing approximately 12,000 comments.
- Many of the 12,000 are non-substantive (simply expressing support or opposition to

the rule)

- We received highly substantive comments from many organizations, state and local government agencies, the scientific community, and knowledgeable individuals
- Some of the most common "hot topics" we are seeing:
 - Opposition to trophy hunting
 - Concerns about the ability of states to effectively manage grizzlies after delisting
 - Claims that the population is not, in fact, recovered (and references to scientists that support this claim)
 - Lack of connectivity to other populations (and resultant lack of genetic diversity)
- Other frequently mentioned topics:
 - Concerns about climate change and how it is addressed in the draft rule
 - Concerns about declining food sources (i.e. whitebark pine) and how this is addressed in the draft rule
 - Tribal opposition to the delisting proposal
 - The tourism value of grizzly bears
 - Human encroachment on grizzly bear habitat

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On Mon, Jun 13, 2016 at 11:41 AM, Thabault, Michael <michael_thabault@fws.gov> wrote:

Sarah, Matt is going to IGBC next week and is on the hook to give a status on the delisting. He would a generally summary of the comments to the extent we know by Friday or NLT Monday. Big picture stuff. How many, major themes etc. Thanks.

Michael Thabault

Assistant Regional Director

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