



IDAHO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

600 S. Walnut St.
Boise, ID 83707-0025

November 28, 2005

Chris Servheen
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
University Hall 309
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812

Dear Mr. Servheen:

RE: Policy Position of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society Supporting Delisting of Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ICTWS) is the professional association for wildlife research and management professionals in the state of Idaho.

In this position statement the ICTWS endorses the proposal by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to remove grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem from the list of species protected under the US Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The ICTWS recognizes that grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem were appropriately listed as threatened in 1975. The ICTWS believes that cooperative efforts by state and federal resource management agencies, and private entities has resulted in substantial achievement toward the goal of species recovery in the Yellowstone Ecosystem.

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Specific achievements that have resulted since the ESA listing are summarized below:

- Development and implementation of grizzly bear management guidelines
- Development and implementation of the FWS grizzly bear recovery plan
- Successful accomplishment of recovery criteria set forth in the grizzly bear recovery plan
- Collaborative research efforts resulting in the most extensively studied bear population in the world
- National Forest management plan revisions incorporating grizzly bear management guidelines
- Development of grizzly bear management plans by the States of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming which include acceptable post-delisting regulatory mechanisms
- Successful acquisition of secure habitat through grazing allotment retirements from willing sellers
- The Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies to continue recovery efforts post delisting
- Adoption of the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy which incorporates a monitoring and research program, adaptive management methodology, and relisting criteria

The ICTWS recognizes that recovery efforts for grizzly bears in the other recovery areas have not been as successful. We urge the FWS to focus renewed attention and resources towards these recovery areas using the Yellowstone Ecosystem model that has achieved such remarkable results.

Sincerely

Rita Dixon
Vice President
Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society