Overview

- Purpose
- Process
- Contents
- Implementation
The 1993 Recovery Plan outlines 2 requirements for delisting:

1) Attainment of population demographic parameters

2) Development of a Conservation Strategy that will ensure that adequate regulatory mechanisms will continue to be present after delisting
Purpose: Status Assessment

• Five Factor Review required for any consideration of status review (ESA Section 4(a)(1))
  – Adequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms

• Post-Delisting Management Plan must be in place prior to delisting to guide and direct management so that grizzly bear remain recovered. The CS serves as this plan.
Process: Development and Review

• Interagency Grizzly Bear Technical Team drafts CS
• Agencies review and approve draft CS
• Draft released for public review and comment
Process: Public Comment and Final Review

- Summary of public comments
- Response to public comments
- Revised draft submitted to the Ecosystem Subcommittee for comment
Process: Approval and Signing

- Ecosystem Subcommittee approves document for consideration by the IGBC
- IGBC provides comment and approves document
- IGBC agencies sign the Memorandum of Understanding to implement the CS
Timeline: GYE

2000
Draft CS released for public comment

2003
Delisted; Final CS

2007
CS Completed

2009
Appeal to 9th Circuit

2010
Draft CS released for public comment

2016
CS Finalized

2017
Begin revisions to CS Chpt. 3

2018
Appeal to 9th Circuit

2020
Finalized CS Chpt 3 revisions; Start Chpt 2 revisions

2022

Draft CS released for public comment

Delisted; Final CS

Appeal to 9th Circuit

Draft CS released for public comment

CS Finalized

Begin revisions to CS Chpt. 3

Appeal to 9th Circuit

Finalized CS Chpt 3 revisions; Start Chpt 2 revisions

Legal Challenge US District Court, MT

District Court Vacates Delisting; Relisted

9th Circuit Ruling; Remain listed

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Legal Challenge US District Court, MT

District Court Vacates Delisting; Relisted

9th Circuit Ruling; Remain listed

Legal Challenge US District Court, MT

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9th Circuit Ruling; Remain listed
Timeline: NDE

- **2009**: Appointment of technical team to draft CS
- **2013**: Draft CS released for public comment
- **2017**: CS Completed
- **2018**: Updated CS released with editorial changes
- **2020**: Subcommittee direction to reconvene technical team to assess potential CS revisions
- **2022**: Reassembly of technical team to update and revise CS
Contents: Conservation Strategy Chapters

• Executive Summary
• Memorandum of Understanding
• Introduction and Background
• Population/Demographic Objectives and Monitoring
• Habitat Objectives and Monitoring
• Conflict Prevention and Management
• Information and Education
• Implementation and Evaluation
• Existing Laws, Regulations, and Agreements
• Appendices
Contents: Overview

• Outlines legal authorities, policies, management programs, and the continued commitment of management agencies to maintain a high standard of management after delisting
• Reviews current status
• Includes best available science
Vision Statement: GYE

The PCA will be a secure area for grizzly bears, with population and habitat conditions maintained to ensure a recovered population is maintained for the foreseeable future and to allow bears to continue to expand outside the PCA.
Vision Statement: GYE

Outside of the PCA:

– Allow bears to expand into biologically suitable and socially acceptable areas
– Maintain existing resource management and recreational uses
– Consider bear needs along with other uses
Vision Statement: GYE

- Manage the GYE within the Demographic Monitoring Area (DMA) to ensure a recovered population and in accordance with Recovery Criteria.
- Expand public information and education efforts.
- Provide responsive management to address grizzly bear conflicts.
- Manage grizzly bears as a game animal; including allowing regulated hunting when and where appropriate.
Vision Statement: NCDE

Maintain a recovered, genetically diverse grizzly bear population throughout the DMA while maintaining demographic and genetic connections with Canadian populations and providing the opportunity for demographic and/or genetic connectivity with other ecosystems (Cabinet-Yaak, Bitterroot, Greater Yellowstone).
PCA – most conservative habitat protections; maintenance of habitat conditions compatible with the increasing grizzly bear population from 2004-2011.
Vision Statement: NCDE

- Zones 1 and 2 –
  - Bears serve as a source population to other grizzly bear ecosystems.
  - Habitat and population protections vary by management objectives; more protections in areas identified as Demographic Connectivity Areas (DCAs).
- Zone 3 - no habitat linkage to other grizzly bear ecosystems; grizzly bear occupancy not actively discouraged; management via conflict response
Content: Demographic Objectives and Monitoring

• Specific to Demographic Monitoring Area (DMA)

• Population objective
  – GYE: Maintain population around 2002-2014 estimate
  – NCDE: Manage for a population with an estimated probability of at least 90% being above 800 individuals

• Distribution of females with young (as measured by Bear Management Units (BMUs))

• Mortality threshold to maintain population objective
Content: Additional Demographic Monitoring Objectives

- Population trend
- Genetic management of isolated populations
- Estimated distribution
- Monitoring reports
Content: Habitat Objectives and Monitoring Within the PCA

• Maintain baseline that was compatible with a stable to increasing population
  – Secure Habitat
  – Developed Sites
  – Livestock Allotments
• Measured and reported for each bear management subunit
• Monitoring reports
Content: Habitat Objectives and Monitoring Outside the GYE PCA

Existing land protections through designation as Wilderness, Wilderness Study Area, or Inventoried Roadless Area
Zone 1: Maintain linear miles or density of motorized routes/roads consistent with continual occupancy and a stable to increasing population.
Content: Habitat Objectives and Monitoring Outside the NCDE PCA

- Demographic Connectivity Areas (DCAs): Limit linear miles of motorized routes to facilitate continual occupancy connectivity to other ecosystems
- Zone 2: habitat management compatible with genetic connectivity will be maintained through existing protections
- Zone 3: Habitat management not necessary because does not provide linkage to other grizzly bear ecosystems
Content: Additional Habitat Objectives and Monitoring

• GYE:
  – Monitor 4 high caloric food items (Cutthroat trout, ungulates, whitebark pine cone production, and army cutworm moth aggregation sites)
  – Habitat connectivity: transportation planning and food storage orders

• NCDE:
  – Body condition and stable isotope analysis as surrogates for habitat quality
  – Food storage orders
Content: Conflict Reduction and Management

- Minimize conflict
  - Sanitation efforts
  - Information, education and outreach programs
- Reflect individual state, federal, and tribal plans
- Annual conflict reporting
Content: Implementation

• Implementation after delisting is responsibility of the involved agencies and is necessary to maintain the standard of management required to conserve and maintain a viable population
  – Coordinating Committee - coordinates implementation of CS
  – Agencies agree to implement standards by signing the document

• The Conservation Strategy reflects and has a detail list of existing laws, regulations, plans, and commitments
Content: Evaluation

- Revisions to the CS to incorporate the best available biological data and science
- Revisions subject to public review and comment
- Thresholds:
  - Biology and Monitoring Review
    - USFWS Status Review
Further Considerations

• Currently maintained CS ensures that adequate regulatory mechanisms will continue post-delisting

• Potential needs for revisions:
  – New state regulations
  – Court decisions
  – New information
Thank you NCDE and GYE technical team members