

Peer Review of Scientific Information

About the Document

Title: Proposed Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Grizzly Bear in the North Cascades Ecosystem, Washington

Estimated Dissemination Date of the Proposed Rule: September 29, 2023

Estimated Peer Review Timeframe: 09/29/2023-11/13/2023

Type of review: Influential

About the Peer Review Process

In accordance with the requirements of the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review and the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and National Marine Fisheries Service's interagency peer review policy, we will initiate peer review of the science used to develop the proposed rule to establish an experimental population of grizzly bears in the North Cascades Ecosystem, Washington.

The Service will solicit reviews and comments from at least three subject area experts who are willing to commit to providing an objective written scientific review of the proposed rule within the needed time frame. We will select reviewers who are unlikely to experience personal gain or loss as a result of the Service's decision. Peer reviewers will not be compensated for their time, and Service employees will not be used for this peer review. The scientific peer review will run concurrently with the public review.

The primary disciplines or expertise that are needed for this peer review are individuals with expertise in grizzly bear ecology, individuals with expertise in reintroducing large carnivores, and individuals with expertise in bear conservation or management.

The Service will provide each peer reviewer with information necessary to complete the peer review. Because the peer review comment period will run concurrently with the public comment period, we cannot provide them with public comments prior to their review. However, we will ask the peer reviewers to comment on the relevancy of, and the uncertainty associated with, the data used by the Service to develop the proposed rule, to review the appropriateness of the methods used to analyze the data, and to evaluate the Service's conclusion. The deadline for receipt of reviews will be clearly stated. Like public comments received on the proposed rule, peer review comments will be public documents posted and available for viewing on the website <http://www.regulations.gov>, at Docket Number FWS-R1-ES-2023-0074.

Will the public and/or scientific or professional societies be asked to nominate peer reviewers? No

Are waivers or deferrals being invoked? No

Estimated Start Date of Peer Review: September 29, 2023

About Public Participation

The public is invited to comment on this peer review plan and on the proposed rule during the public comment period on the proposed rule. We expect the 45-day public comment period to be open from September 29, 2023 through November 13, 2023, however this is subject to change and is dependent upon publication of the proposed rule. The proposed rule will be available for review and comment at <http://www.regulations.gov>, at Docket Number FWS-R1-ES-2023-0074.

Contact

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