

Meeting Date: May 14, 2009

Agenda Item No. 20

Agenda Item: Grizzly Bear/Wolf Update

Approved by: _____

Prepared by: Jim Unsworth

Background:

On April 2, 2009 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service published a final rule delineating the Northern Rocky Mountain wolf distinct population segment (DPS) and delisting the Northern Rocky Mountain DPS. The final rule takes effect May 4, 2009 resulting in wolves in Idaho being returned to state management authority.

On April 30, 2007 a final U.S. Fish & Wildlife rule designating and delisting the Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear distinct population segment (DPS) went into effect, resulting in state management authority for grizzly bears found within the Greater Yellowstone DPS area.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Once delisted, grizzly bears and wolves are managed following numerous state laws, Commission rules and proclamations, and interstate/interagency agreements (e.g. Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy).

Public Involvement Process:

None.

Staff Recommendation:

None. This agenda item is to provide an update to the Commission on state management of Yellowstone grizzly bears and gray wolves.

Justification:

Information only.