

# Peer Review Plan

**Date:** 11/28/2013

**Source Center:** U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)  
Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center  
2327 University Way, Suite 2  
Bozeman, MT 59715

**Title:** Response of Yellowstone grizzly bears to changes in food resources: a synthesis.

**Subject and Purpose:** This is a final report to Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) summarizing findings of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear food synthesis project. Grizzly bears in the lower 48 States were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1975. In 2007, the Yellowstone grizzly bear population was delisted but subsequent litigation and a ruling by the 9th Circuit Court placed it back under federal protection in 2009. The primary justification for relisting was inadequate information on how declining whitebark pine, an important fall food source for grizzly bears, would impact the population. In the spring of 2012, the IGBC commissioned the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) to conduct an extensive synthesis of existing data to help answer this and related questions. The IGBST is led by USGS scientists in collaboration with National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and Idaho Fish and Game, and the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribal Fish and Game Department. The publication will be released by the IGBC.

**Impact of Dissemination:** This product is considered by USGS to be Influential Science Information.

**Timing of Review (Including Deferrals):** November 2013. Deferrals are not anticipated.

**Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process:** USGS will select the peer reviewers pursuant to the requirements in Survey Manual chapter 502.3 – Fundamental Science Practices: Peer Review (<http://www.usgs.gov/usgs-manual/500/502-3.html>).

**Expected Number of Peer Reviewers:** Anticipate 2 reviewers.

**Requisite Expertise:** Bear ecology, conservation biology.

**Opportunity for Public Comment:** No opportunity for public comment is formally incorporated for this product.

**Agency Contact:** [peer\\_review\\_agenda@usgs.gov](mailto:peer_review_agenda@usgs.gov).