



1983 – 2008

*Celebrating 25 Years
of Conservation Success*

Greater Yellowstone Coalition

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GYC statement on return of grizzly bear to Endangered Species List:

We have fought for 25 years to secure the grizzly bear's place in Greater Yellowstone, and today's ruling is a critical step in continuing the recovery of this symbol of the wild.

While grizzly numbers have rebounded from all-time lows, they continue to face many challenges. In removing the grizzly bear from ESA protections, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service did not ensure long-term conservation of habitat to sustain healthy populations.

The court's ruling also makes it clear that the Fish & Wildlife Service cannot ignore challenges the agency itself identified, such as the likely loss of whitebark pine, an important grizzly food source threatened by pine beetles, blister rust and climate change.

"Our hope now is that the Fish & Wildlife Service goes back to the drawing board and comes up with a plan that provides appropriate habitat protections and addresses long-term threats to bears," said Craig Kenworthy, GYC's conservation director.

People protecting the lands, waters, and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, now and for future generations.

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