

Daines co-sponsors bill to delist grizzlies

Five Republican senators from western states have signed on to the Grizzly Bear State Management Act, which would remove Endangered Species Act protections from Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bears.

by [Amanda Eggert](#) 03.26.2021

HELENA – Five Republican U.S. senators from Wyoming, Idaho and Montana are sponsoring a bill that would direct the Department of Interior to remove Endangered Species Act protections from Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bears. The [two-page bill](#) also contains a provision saying the action “shall not be subject to judicial review,” a nod to the many court battles that have ensued over grizzly management in the past decade.

The measure is sponsored by Wyoming senators Cynthia Lummis and John Barrasso, Idaho senators Mike Crapo and James Risch, and Montana’s Steve Daines.

“By all scientific measures, the grizzly bears of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem are fully recovered,” Lummis said in a press release about the bill. “Reproductive numbers are stable and the population is at or near its max capacity for the habitat. It’s time to remove the grizzlies in this area from the Endangered Species List and allow wildlife scientists in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho to manage the population according to science.”

“Wyoming’s good work and sound management practices should be given an opportunity to demonstrate success. Seeing states successfully implement recovery efforts is just one of the many reasons I am working to improve the Endangered Species Act,” Barrasso said in the release.

Daines echoed that position in his comments, saying, “Wildlife management must be determined by science, not by activist judges. Montana’s state leaders know what’s best for our communities, public safety, the ecosystem, wildlife, and the bear itself.”

Nonprofit environmental group the Center for Biological Diversity expressed concern about the development and what it means for grizzly bear recovery. It countered that science supports maintaining existing protections.

“It’s disturbing to see Western lawmakers try to blatantly sidestep the science showing that grizzly bears should remain [federally] protected under the Endangered Species Act,” said Andrea Zaccardi, a senior attorney for the group. “We’re hopeful this bill dies a quick death in Congress.”

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