



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington D.C. 20240



December 15, 202

Daniel Brister
Save the Yellowstone Grizzly
PO Box 8359
Missoula, MT 59806

REF: DOI-FWS-2022-005571

Dear Mr. Brister:

This letter is regarding your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated 08/12/2022 and assigned tracking number DOI-FWS-2022-005571. Please cite this number in future communications regarding your request.

You requested the following:

- 1. any and all electronic communications, records of phone calls, or other correspondence between the United States Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS") and any federal or state agency, including the National Park Service ("NPS"), the U.S. Forest Service ("USFS"), and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks ("FWP") concerning the female grizzly bear killed near Polebridge, MT ("Grizzly Bear # 418" or "Monica") and her three cubs on or about September 4, 2021;*
- 2. any and all documents including notes, reports, communications, or meeting minutes discussing Grizzly Bear # 418 and/or her cubs, including those concerning the behaviors that led to the killings, the decision to lethally remove Grizzly Bear # 418 and her cubs, or subsequent investigations into the events surrounding the removal of Grizzly Bear # 418 and her cubs;*
- 3. any and all records generated between April 15, 2021 to the date FWS conducts this search in connection with any application from any person or agency for an Incidental Take Permit ("ITP") for Grizzly Bear # 418 and her cubs, which were killed near Polebridge, MT on or about September 4, 2021;*
- 4. any and all electronic communications, records of phone calls, or other correspondence between the United States Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS") and any federal or state agency, including the National Park Service ("NPS"), the U.S. Forest Service ("USFS"), and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game ("IDFG") concerning the sow and yearling grizzly bear killed on or about May 21, 2022 and the sow and two cubs killed on or about May 25, 2022, all near Island Park, ID;*
- 5. any and all documents including notes, reports, communications, or meeting minutes discussing any of the five grizzly bears killed near Island Park, ID on or about May 21 and May 25, 2022*

including those concerning the behaviors that led to the killings, the decision to lethally remove the grizzly bears, or subsequent investigations into the events surrounding the removal of the five grizzly bears near Island Park, ID;

6. any and all records generated between April 15, 2021 to the date FWS conducts this search in connection with any application from any person or agency for an Incidental Take Permit (“ITP”) for any of the five grizzly bears killed near Island Park, ID on or about May 21 and May 25, 2022;

7. any and all electronic communications, records of phone calls, or other correspondence between the USFWS and any federal or state agency, including the National Park Service (“NPS”), the U.S. Forest Service (“USFS”), and the FWP concerning the grizzly bears that were captured, killed, and/or relocated from near Columbia Falls, MT, Lupfer Meadows, and/or the Blankenship area on or about July 10, 2022, including the adult sow grizzly bear, two subadult male grizzly bears, and the two cubs that were relocated to the Rivendale Wildlife Sanctuary in Bulgaer, PA;

8. any and all documents including notes, reports, communications, or meeting minutes discussing any of the grizzly bears that were captured, killed, and/or relocated from near Columbia Falls, MT, Lupfer Meadows, and/or the Blankenship area on or about July 10, 2022, including the adult sow grizzly bear, two subadult male grizzly bears, and the two cubs that were relocated to the Rivendale Wildlife Sanctuary in Bulgar, PA including those concerning the behaviors that led to the killings, the decision to lethally remove the grizzly bears, or subsequent investigations into the events surrounding the capture and removal of these grizzly bears;

9. any and all records generated between June 15, 2022 to the date FWS conducts this search in connection with any application from any person or agency for any Incidental Take Permits (“ITP”) issued for the grizzly bears that were captured, killed, and/or relocated from near Columbia Falls, MT, Lupfer Meadows, and/or the Blankenship area on or about July 10, 2022, including the adult sow grizzly bear, two subadult male grizzly bears, and the two cubs that were relocated to the Rivendale Wildlife Sanctuary in Bulgar, PA;

10. any and all electronic communications, records of phone calls, or other correspondence between the USFWS and any federal or state agency, including the National Park Service (“NPS”), the U.S. Forest Service (“USFS”), and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (“WGFD”) concerning grizzly bear #1057 that was killed in Sublette County, WY on or about July 12, 2022;

11. any and all documents including notes, reports, communications, or meeting minutes discussing grizzly bear #1057 that was killed in Sublette County, WY on or about July 12, 2022 including those concerning the behaviors that led to the killings, the decision to lethally remove the grizzly bear, or subsequent investigations into the events surrounding the capture and removal of this grizzly bears;

12. any and all records generated between June 15, 2022 and the date FWS conducts this search in connection with any application from any person or agency for any Incidental Take Permits (“ITP”) issued for grizzly bear #1057 that was killed in Sublette County, WY on or about July 12, 2022;

13. any and all electronic communications, records of phone calls, or other correspondence from 2021 or 2022 between the USFWS and any federal or state agency, including the National Park Service (“NPS”), the U.S. Forest Service (“USFS”), and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department

(“WGFD”) concerning the capture, attempted capture, relocation, or removal of grizzly bear #399 or any of grizzly bear #399’s offspring;

14. any and all documents including notes, reports, communications, or meeting minutes discussing Grizzly Bear #399 or any of Grizzly Bear #399’s offspring;

15. any and all records generated between January 1, 2021 and the date FWS conducts this search in connection with any application from any person or agency for any Incidental Take Permits (“ITP”) issued for Grizzly Bear #399 or any of Grizzly Bear #399’s offspring..

Response

This is the first interim response to your request. We have uploaded 142 Adobe PDF files (462 pages) at <https://fileshare.fws.gov/?linkid=KZi4zr6VWWXB9nCr+mOKmZDTMAbjAHLe8YDODS6ncAGbVD1e5STBEg>, that are responsive to items 11-13 of your request. which are being released to you in their entirety.



Conclusion

Because this is an interim response to your request, we will provide notice of your appeal rights in our final response letter.

If you have any questions about our response to your request, you may contact me by email at kendall_elifrits@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Kendall Elifrits
FWS FOIA Coordinator

Enclosure