

Dear Governor Mead:

Thank you for your letter of [date] to Secretary Jewell regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) proposal to remove the grizzly bear in the Yellowstone ecosystem from the federal list of threatened and endangered species. We appreciate the many years of conservation effort on the part of the State of Wyoming to accomplish this remarkable recovery.

We also greatly appreciate the clear statement of intent in your letter, in the event that the bear is delisted and the State elects to authorize its hunting, with respect to three issues of particular concern to the National Park Service; i.e., whether hunting of grizzly bears will be allowed in the John D. Rockefeller Parkway; whether hunting will be focused upon areas of high human conflict, which generally tend to be distant from National Park boundaries; and whether the National Park Service will be able to confer with the State when it makes its annual decisions about allowable mortality. We acknowledge that these issues are separate and apart from the factors that the Fish and Wildlife Service must take into account in making its delisting decision, but we believe they are important to the quality of the visitor experience at Yellowstone, and therefore important to us.

Thank you for clearly setting forth how you intend to address these issues. In light of the intentions set forth in your letter, and upon consideration of the commitments set forth in the revised Conservation Strategy and assurances we have received from USFWS-, we are pleased to be able to express our support for that Strategy and for the ~~Fish and Wildlife Service's~~ delisting proposal. We look forward to working together in the future to maintain a recovered population of grizzly bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director

~~Daniel N. Wenk~~
~~Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park~~