



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region



IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/R6

MAILING ADDRESS:
Post Office Box 25486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

STREET LOCATION:
134 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

SEP 8 - 2016

Chairman Blaine Edmo
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
P.O. Box 306
Ft. Hall, Idaho 83203

Dear Chairman Edmo:

Thank you for your Tribe's participation in the government-to-government consultation meeting between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and Federally-Recognized Tribal governments regarding the Service's proposal to delist the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) population of grizzly bears. The meeting was held on April 28, 2016 at the Homewood Suites in Bozeman, Montana. At that time, we communicated that we would send out a transcript of the meeting and a list of attendees for your records.

During the meeting in Bozeman, Tribal representatives requested government-to-government consultation with Tribal leadership. Per the request, we are offering formal consultation with your tribe and would like to schedule a time to meet with leadership. Ivy Allen, Native American Liaison, will help coordinate the consultation logistics to reach a mutually agreed upon time and place for this meeting. She will be contacting you within the next week to begin making arrangements. If you would like to reach out to her directly, she can be contacted by phone at 303-236-4575 or via email at Ivy_Allen@fws.gov.

In addition to following up on our discussions during our previous meeting, we also want to make you aware of new information related to the delisting proposal. The Service has received five, independent peer reviews on the Yellowstone grizzly bear population proposed delisting rule. The peer reviewers were selected by an outside, third-party contractor based on their technical grizzly bear expertise. In addition, we have received the necessary protective measures finalized by the States of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming to manage human-caused mortality of grizzly bears in the ecosystem post-delisting. The peer reviews and links to the state protective measures are posted online at <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/grizzlyBear.php>.

If you would like to comment on the peer reviews and state protective measures, you will be able to submit comments electronically, by mail, or by hand-delivery. Comments only need to be submitted once via any of the following methods:

- (1) Electronically: Comments may be submitted at the Federal eRulemaking Portal:

(1) Electronically: Comments may be submitted at the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Once on that site, enter the docket number for the proposed rule, which is FWS-R6-ES-2016-0042, in the search box. Then click on the Search button. On the resulting page, you may submit a comment by clicking on "Comment Now!" Please ensure you have found the correct document before submitting your comments. If your comments will fit in the provided comment box, please use that feature, as it is most compatible with our comment review procedures. If you attach your comments as a separate document, our preferred file format is Microsoft Word. If you attach multiple comments (such as form letters or a petition), our preferred format is a spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel.

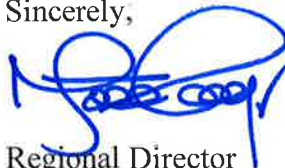
(2) Hard copy: Comments can be submitted by U.S. mail or hand-delivery by either sending to: Native American Liaison, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 134 Union Blvd., Lakewood, CO 80228, or to Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R6-ES-2016-0042; Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

Alternatively, Tribal comments can be submitted electronically via email to Ivy Allen, Native American Liaison, Mountain-Prairie Region, at Ivy_Allen@fws.gov. The Service will post all information received on <http://www.regulations.gov>. Please note that this generally means that we will post any personal information that is provided.

We ask that you not resubmit comments made during the initial delisting comment period, as those original comments are already being considered in the determination process. However, we welcome the opportunity to have an ongoing dialogue with you regarding the peer reviews and state regulations, so please do not hesitate to contact us to have those discussions.

We look forward to consulting with you and discussing your comments and concerns regarding the proposed delisting of the GYE grizzly bear population.

Sincerely,



Deputy

Regional Director