

From: Deidre Bainbridge
To: Dan_Ashe@fws.gov
Subject: Tell the Obama Administration to Respect Tribal Values and Protect Grizzlies
Date: Monday, August 10, 2015 11:43:56 AM

Deidre Bainbridge
955 Queen's Ln
Jackson, WY 83001

August 10, 2015

Dear U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe,

I'm writing in support of a letter from the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council urging you to delay any plans to remove federal protection from Yellowstone's grizzlies and instead attend a summit this summer, both to hear the tribes' opposition to stripping Endangered Species Act protection from grizzly bears and to show respect for their nations and cultures.

The tribes have a long-standing cultural connection to the region's grizzlies and deserve to be fully heard before any further steps are taken to strip away the bears' protections.

This request follows a Northern Cheyenne tribal representative being forcibly stopped from speaking by the state-federal grizzly bear committee when he attempted to announce the tribe's opposition to stripping protection from the species.

I'm urging you to put delisting plans for Yellowstone's grizzlies on hold and attend the tribal summit this summer as part of government-to-government consultation on this important issue. Also, I written to both you and Secretary of Interior Jewell repeatedly about the mismanagement of the Grizzly Bear in terms of both the ESA listing plan for the Grizzly Bear and the EIS, 2007 record of decision for the Bison and Elk Management Plan. The Grizzly Bear has grossly diminished food sources in the GYE due to climate change. Because of the loss of food in Yellowstone National Park, which has diminished the carrying capacity of said recovery zone the Bears have been on a forced migration south and southeast into GTNP area and other areas in search of food and not because they are overflowing from YNP. GTNP is not managed to be mindful of climate change and to protect one last 2 of 4 remaining food sources necessary for reproduction, the elk and bison. The elk reduction continues. There are few elk in GTNP now, the segment population size is down by over 600 animals yet the hunting in the park continues to deplete the population and lure the grizzly bear to eat gut piles a well known and documented fact in human populated areas. The Grizzly Bear as well as other GTNP wildlife need your help now. Not tomorrow when it is too late. Deidre J. Bainbridge

Sincerely,
Deidre Bainbridge