

From: Lori Paul
To: Dan_Ashe@fws.gov
Subject: Tell Top Obama Officials to Meet With Tribes About Grizzly Protection
Date: Monday, July 27, 2015 1:47:52 PM

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July 27, 2015

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

As a California licensed veterinary technician, biologist, and former zoo keeper at the Los Angeles Zoo that has cared for bears, I am strongly opposed to the US Fish & Wildlife Service lifting any protections for grizzly bears.

I have seen the appalling and lethal response by states like Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana to the lifting of protections for wolves. Years of research and careful reintroduction for the balance of ecosystems is falling victim to state-sanctioned trophy hunting and ranching special interests in these states. Wolves are being shot with tracking collars on their necks and at the boundaries of our National Parks. States cannot be trusted to carefully manage wolves and the same fate awaits any de-listing of grizzly bears. Do not repeat the current tragic fiasco with wolves by throwing grizzlies to the, well, wolves.

The iconic grizzly bear requires federal protection or we will lose this keystone species that is so important to the health of its environment. Grizzlies belong to all citizens, not just to the states that would obliterate them the moment protections are lifted! Stand with Native American tribes and continue to protect grizzly bears.

Though the following text is from a form letter, it expresses my opinion exactly...

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.

Sincerely,
Lori Paul