

From: John Weeks
To: Dan_Ashe@fws.gov
Subject: Tell the Obama Administration to Respect Tribal Values and Protect Grizzlies
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2015 11:43:05 AM

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June 23, 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.

Let me add that the possibility of allowing trophy hunting of grizzlies is particularly repugnant to me. These are living creatures, and we should join the Native Americans in showing reverence for them.

Sincerely,
John Weeks