

From: John & Sandra Mercer
To: Dan_Ashe@fws.gov
Subject: Please Meet With Tribes to Discuss Grizzly Protection
Date: Thursday, May 21, 2015 2:13:31 PM

Dear Director 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 protections 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.

Tribes have a longstanding cultural connection with the region's grizzlies and deserve to be fully heard before any further steps are taken to strip away the bears' protections.

The 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 on hold for Yellowstone's grizzlies and attend the tribal summit this summer as part of government-to-government consultation on this important issue.

Sincerely,

John & Sandra Mercer
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