

From: Lori Benton-Janetta
To: Dan_Ashe@fws.gov
Subject: Please Meet With Tribes to Discuss Grizzly Protection
Date: Thursday, May 21, 2015 6:23:08 AM

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.

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.

As a Native American, I want to express how infuriated I become when Big Money gets its way and the rest of our citizens, Native Americans included, don't get to voice our opinions and desires. Who stands to profit from delisting? a few rich hunters, looking for a new trophy? and others involved in and on the periphery of hunting? those who cater to the wealthy want-to-be great white hunter? The decision to delist should take into, most importantly, the science-based facts regarding grizzlies; then the input of ALL people, without exception.

Sincerely,

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