



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mountain-Prairie Region



IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/R6/ES/EA
ESO-00060852

MAILING ADDRESS:
Post Office Box 25486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

STREET LOCATION:
134 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

FEB 19 2015

Chairman Vernon Finley
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
P.O. Box 278
Pablo, Montana 59855

RECEIVED

FEB 23 2015

**CS & KT
Tribal Council Support**

Dear Chairman Finley:

Based on your Tribe's status as a sovereign nation and in keeping with our trust responsibility, please accept this letter as our advance notice of intent to review the endangered species status of the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) in the Greater Yellowstone Area. While the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee's Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee has recommended delisting this population, at this time, no delisting actions or proposals have been moved forward. We will gladly engage in government-to-government consultation prior to any actions on the grizzly bear's status.

In accordance with Secretarial Order 3206 (Order), we consult with Indian tribes when actions taken under authority of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) may affect Indian lands, tribal trust resources, or the exercise of American Indian tribal rights as defined in the Order. We recognize your inherent powers to make and enforce laws and to manage and control your natural resources. It is our goal to support this authority and maintain good working relationships with all Native American Tribes.

We propose to host four meetings in areas where Tribes have expressed interest in this issue. Specifically, we would like to offer three consultation meetings in late winter or early spring. Ideally, the three consultation meetings would occur within the Great Plains, the Northern Rocky Mountains, and the Idaho geographical areas. We are requesting location and venue suggestions for the three consultation meetings by **March 6, 2015**. We would be happy to coordinate a date and location that can meet these consultation needs. An informational meeting on this will be held on March 19, 2015, at the Denver Mountain-Prairie Region Tribal Leadership Roundtable.

At your request, the Service is available to meet with you and learn how your Tribe may be affected by a possible change in status and share information we have about this species and the status review process. We will also discuss how Tribal information, comments, and expertise can be incorporated into the process.

It is requested that you submit any information by return of this envelope. Your response electronically or by mail will be appreciated.

Graciously Yours,
[Signature]

SEP 10 1988

The enclosed information is for your information only. It is not to be used for any other purpose. The information is confidential and should be handled accordingly.

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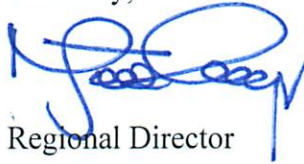
The enclosed information is for your information only. It is not to be used for any other purpose. The information is confidential and should be handled accordingly.

To ensure that your tribal information regarding Yellowstone grizzly bears may be incorporated into our review, we request that you submit any information by **March 31, 2015**. Please send your response electronically to chris_servheen@fws.gov or by mail to:

Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
University Hall, Room 309
University Of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812

If you would like to provide recommendations for the meetings or schedule a government-to-government consultation, please contact Ivy Allen, Tribal Liaison, by email at ivy_allen@fws.gov or by phone at 303-236-4575. If you have questions about the species or the comment process, please contact Chris Servheen, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator, at 406-243-4903.

Sincerely,



Deputy

Regional Director

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