



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region



IN REPLY REFER TO:
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FEB 17 2015

Guardians of our Ancestral Legacy (GOAL) Tribal Coalition
Mr. R. Bear Stands Last
Box 30,000 #360
Jackson, Wyoming 83002

Dear Mr. Bear Stands Last:

Thank you for your January 16, 2015, letter to Secretary Jewell concerning the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) and the Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) relationship with sovereign Tribes with ancestral connections to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. We appreciate your concerns and fully understand our obligation to consult with Federally Recognized Native American Tribes on a government-to-government basis.

In accordance with Secretarial Order 3206 (Order), we consult with Native American Tribes when actions taken under authority of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) may affect their lands, tribal trust resources, or the exercise of Native American tribal rights as defined in the Order. We agree that Tribal governments should have the opportunity for meaningful engagement with the Service on the status of all wildlife species of concern to them.

Importantly, no decision has been made on the status of Yellowstone grizzly bears. Before any decisions are reached on the status of the Yellowstone grizzly bears, we will be sure Tribes are offered the opportunity to participate in consultations with the Service concerning this issue.

Thank you for your interest in the grizzly bear in the Yellowstone ecosystem. If you would like to discuss Tribal relationships further, 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 grizzly bear or its status, please contact and Chris Servheen, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator at 406-243-4903.

Sincerely,

Deputy Regional Director