

March 23, 2015

Mr. R. Bear Stands Last
GOAL
Box 30,000, #360
Jackson, WY 83002

Dear Mr. Bear Stands Last:

Thank you for your continued interest in grizzly bear conservation. This response acknowledges receipt of your March 2, 2015 letter to Secretary Jewell. She asked that I respond on her behalf.

As stated in our February 17, 2015, letter, we fully understand our obligation to consult with Federally Recognized Native American sovereign Tribes on a government-to-government basis. Consistent with Secretarial Order 3206, we have offered government-to-government consultation to each sovereign Tribe with ancestral connections to the greater Yellowstone area. Discussions with Tribes who have an interest engaging in such a government-to-government consultation as well as the timing and location of such consultations are ongoing.

Importantly, no decision has been made on the status of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. At present, we are continuing our status review to determine whether a change in status is warranted. This status review will be based upon the best scientific and commercial information available concerning the status of the population. Contrary to the assertions in your letter, we have not determined that delisting will be proposed in June.

It is also worth noting that any final decision to remove this species from the Federal list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and return of management to the States and Tribes (and continue Federal management within National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges) would require a lengthy rulemaking process. This process includes a proposed rule and final rule as well as public and peer review.

Although GOAL does not constitute a Federally recognized Tribe warranting government-to-government consultation (or speak for any such Tribe), your advocacy organization is free to articulate your perspective during such public comment periods (should delisting eventually be proposed). All public comments are considered during the rulemaking process.

Thank you for your interest in the grizzly bear in the Yellowstone ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Director