

From: Michael Thabault
To: [Willey, Seth](#)
Cc: [Chris Servheen](#); [Bridget Fahey](#)
Subject: Re: URGENT REPORTER ON DEADLINE: Yellowstone grizzly-Guardians of Ancestral Legacy
Date: Friday, May 15, 2015 9:36:31 AM

No concern

Michael Thabault
Assistant Regional Director
Ecological Services
Mountain Prairie Region

On May 15, 2015, at 9:35 AM, Willey, Seth <seth_willey@fws.gov> wrote:

FYI - greenwire article on tribal trust. HQ prepared a draft response (we were asked to review in less than an hour given article timeline) to which we suggested a bit more of a nod to our tribal trust responsibilities and our intention to satisfy them. Let me know if you have any concerns.

Seth L. Willey
Assistant Regional ESA Chief &
Regional Recovery Coordinator
USFWS, Mountain-Prairie Region
Seth_Willey@fws.gov
303-236-4257

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ryan Moehring** <ryan_moehring@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, May 15, 2015 at 9:31 AM
Subject: RE: URGENT REPORTER ON DEADLINE: Yellowstone grizzly-Guardians of Ancestral Legacy
To: Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Megan Kelhart <megan_kelhart@fws.gov>, Chris Tollefson <chris_tollefson@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>
Cc: Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, seth_willey@fws.gov, Michael Thabault <michael_thabault@fws.gov>

All,

I spoke with Seth, and we are fine with the below quote with the following caveat: under Secretarial Order 3206, Tribes are supposed to be afforded special consideration. In our opinion, the quote below seems to lump them in with the rest of the public review and comment process. We are wondering if we might tweak the

quote so as to demonstrate the special consideration we intend to afford the Tribes.

The following language is from a recent letter we provided to GOAL. Perhaps we can extract something from it to clearly address our Tribal trust responsibilities?

“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.”

Thanks,

-Ryan

Ryan Moehring

Public Affairs Specialist (ND, SD, WY, MT)

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From: Laury Parramore [mailto:laury_parramore@fws.gov]

Sent: Friday, May 15, 2015 8:58 AM

To: Megan Kelhart; Chris Tollefson; Matthew Huggler

Cc: Ryan Moehring; Gavin Shire

Subject: RE: URGENT REPORTER ON DEADLINE: Yellowstone grizzly-Guardians of Ancestral Legacy

Importance: High

Just checked with Corbin. He is using the same quote Megan provided from the EPW hearing. Perhaps we could suggest the following, attributable to Dan, which incorporates the EPW quote and Chris T's suggested quote:

"We agree that grizzly bears are recovered. We are working **with** the states of Wyoming, Idaho and Montana, as we speak, to put together the frame for a potential delisting proposal," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe, later adding, "If and when we put forward a delisting proposal, it will be with the full cooperation and involvement of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, and in consultation with affected tribes, as part of a public process including extensive opportunities for public review and comment."

Is everyone comfortable with this? Tx.

From: Kelhart, Megan [mailto:megan_kelhart@fws.gov]

Sent: Friday, May 15, 2015 10:42 AM

To: Tollefson, Chris

Cc: Laury Parramore; Matthew Huggler; Ryan Moehring; Gavin Shire

Subject: Re: URGENT REPORTER ON DEADLINE: Yellowstone grizzly-Guardians of Ancestral Legacy

Hi Laury,

What is the quote from the Senate EPW hearing? What he said during the hearing in response to Senator Barrasso's question was "we agree that grizzly bears are recovered. we are working the states of Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana, and as we speak to put together the frame for a potential delisting proposal." I don't know if he got another quote from Dan after the hearing, but that would be helpful.

Megan

Megan Debranski Kelhart

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On Fri, May 15, 2015 at 10:32 AM, Tollefson, Chris <chris_tollefson@fws.gov> wrote:

I don't know how much more there is to say, honestly. Sometimes repetition is a good thing, helping you drive key points home. I don't think we want to say much more until we have a proposal to announce. That's my take, anyway. And I definitely don't think we want to be saying anything different to the media than we've recently said to Congress and the Tribes.

Chris Tollefson

Press Secretary and Senior Communications Advisor

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On Fri, May 15, 2015 at 10:28 AM, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov> wrote:

Many thanks Chris. The statement you offered sounds good to me, but I'm not sure if/how repetitive it is to the material Corbin pulled from the Feb. 17 and April 13 letters to the tribal alliance as well as a quote on the bears from the Director at last week's EPW hearing. Not saying repetition is bad, just wondering if we'd have anything else we'd want to add. Also, as Corbin already has a Dan quote from the EPW hearing, to whom would we want to attribute this statement? I can try to contact Chris S (understanding there is a 2-hour time difference) before Corbin's noon deadline if we think he is the best person to quote here. Thoughts? Thanks all.

From: Tollefson, Chris [mailto:chris_tollefson@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2015 10:22 AM
To: Laury Parramore; Matt Huggler
Cc: Megan Kelhart; Ryan Moehring; Gavin Shire
Subject: Re: URGENT REPORTER ON DEADLINE: Yellowstone grizzly-Guardians of Ancestral Legacy

I should add that I'm happy to review and provide suggestions on any draft statement. Thanks...

Chris Tollefson

Press Secretary and Senior Communications Advisor

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On Fri, May 15, 2015 at 10:17 AM, Tollefson, Chris <chris_tollefson@fws.gov> wrote:

Laury,

I've pulled out remarks concerning grizzlies that Dan gave in March to the Public Lands Council. I think they'll form the basis of a good statement.

I would stress Dan's points about the importance of maintaining social tolerance for the bear - which includes robust public involvement and input. I would say something to this effect:

If and when we put forward a delisting proposal, it will be with the full cooperation and involvement of the IGBC, and in consultation with affected tribes, as part of a public process including extensive opportunities for public

review and comment.

Hope this helps...

Chris

Chris Tollefson

Press Secretary and Senior Communications Advisor

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On Fri, May 15, 2015 at 9:46 AM, Laury Parramore
<laury_parramore@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi all,

Please see below. Would you please send me ASAP any materials (ie. talking points, testimony etc.) you have that address this issue? I would like to know what Dan has said on the record before talking to Chris S. Thanks!

From: Gavin Shire [mailto:gavin_shire@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2015 6:25 PM
To: Laury Parramore
Cc: betsy_hildebrandt@fws.gov; Matthew Huggler
Subject: FW: Request for comment
Importance: High

I don't think this is in litigation yet, so we can comment, but we don't want Chris Servheen responding. Can you work with Chris on an appropriate response ASAP and email it to Corbin before the noon deadline. Dan has spoken about this publicly, so

we'll need to be sure that our response fits with anything he's said on the record.

G

Gavin G. Shire

Chief of Public Affairs

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gavin_shire@fws.gov

From: Corbin Hiar [mailto:chiar@eenews.net]

Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2015 4:48 PM

To: gavin_shire@fws.gov

Subject: Request for comment

Gavin,

I just tried calling to talk this over, but I'm wrapping up a story on the opposition of Guardians of Our Ancestral Legacy to a potential Yellowstone grizzly delisting. I've already got quotes from FWS's Feb. 17 and April 13 letters to the tribal alliance as well as a quote on the bears from Director Ashe at last week's EPW hearing. But I also want to give you and Chris Servheen a chance to respond directly for the story. Basically it says that the tribes are convinced FWS is moving forward with a delisting proposal and they're mad at Chris, state officials and FWS for not including them more in the status review process.

Let me know if you or Chris want to respond to those sentiments. The piece may run as soon as tomorrow's Greenwire, which has a noon deadline.

Thanks,
Corbin

