

Northern Arapaho Business Council

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October 18, 2016

Hon. Sally Jewell, Interior Secretary
US Dept. of Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

Subject: Cease and Desist misrepresentation of the Northern Arapaho

Dear Secretary Jewell,

The Northern Arapaho Council of Elders makes this declaration so that our position on the imminent delisting from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of our relative, the grizzly bear, can no longer be misrepresented by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the State of Wyoming. The Northern Arapaho Council of Elders opposes in the strongest possible terms the delisting of the grizzly in Greater Yellowstone, and the State of Wyoming's "Grizzly Bear Management Plan," a document that is antithetical to our culture, and that we will not adopt in any form. The idea of trophy hunting the grizzly bear is abhorrent to us; we do not condone killing, and we do not murder our relatives. The grizzly bear is sacred to our people, and has been since time immemorial. In this declaration, it is not necessary for us to explain the spiritual importance of the grizzly bear in our traditional ceremonial practices, and it is enough to state that our ancestors referred to female grizzlies as Woxúúsei and their cubs as woxuusoo the terms that are also used for a mother and her children.

Leadership of the Northern Arapaho Tribe, the Northern Arapaho Council, and Elders (who signed the treaty) and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), "The Grizzly: A Treaty of Cooperation, Cultural Revitalization and Restoration," and our position on this issue is in full accord with the articles of that treaty which, as a sovereign nation and people, we have signed, and intend to adopt and implement in respect to the grizzly. Many tribal nations have, and are, continuing to sign this treaty.

Along with the Northern Arapaho, the two other tribes with seats on the Dept. of Interior's (federal and state) Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee (YES) have also signed the treaty. It is, therefore, completely inappropriate and disrespectful for the USFWS to continue to issue statements to the press claiming that the three tribes on the IGBC-YES support delisting the grizzly, as happened once again after recent treaty signings, even after photographs of the respective tribes' leaders signing the treaty accompanied national and regional press articles.