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March 19, 2015

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW, #101  
Washington, DC 20240

Mr. Dan Ashe  
Director  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street NW, #3331  
Washington, DC 20240

**RE: ESA-Delisting of Yellowstone grizzly bears**

Dear Secretary Jewell and Director Ashe:

On behalf of the Cherokee Nation, I join other tribal leaders in expressing concerns about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) efforts to remove federal protections pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. I understand this action is being taken without FWS engaging in formal tribal consultation in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies.

For many Indian tribes, the grizzly bear is sacred and has a significant place in their cultures and ceremonial ways of life. Additionally, I understand that only 2 percent of the historic population of grizzlies exists today, and that they survive on less than 2 percent of their original range. Given these details, we urge the FWS to commence tribal consultation so tribal concerns on the impacts of delisting grizzly bears and potential impacts on their survival will be considered.

This administration has engaged in tribal consultation on federal policy decisions that have tribal implications at historic levels. Fulfillment of this commitment on FWS's effort to delist the Yellowstone grizzly bear is consistent with Executive Order 13175 and other policies that strengthen the government-to-government relationship between the federal government and Indian tribes.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

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Bill John Baker  
Principal Chief