

# THE HOPI NATION

## SONGOOPAVE HOPI MOMNGWIDU

**Kikmongwi/Ja'agmongwi** Sept. 17, 2015  
LeeWayne Lomayestewa

**Soyalmongwi**  
Marcus Lomayestewa

**Katsinmongwi**  
Lawrence Keevama

**Dawmongwi**  
Joseph Laban

**Kwanmongwi**  
Albert Susunkewa

**Ahlmongwi**  
Antone Secakuku

**Wutsim'mongwi**  
Roy Talahaftewa

**Sakwalenmongwi**  
Pascal Nuvumsa

**Masilenmongwi**  
Patrick Lomawaima

**Jofmongwi**  
Floyd Lomakuyvaya

**Ju'monngwi /  
Qaleedaqmongwi**  
Radford Quamahongnewa

**LAVAY AY AMU**  
Radford Quamahongnewa  
Ronald Wadsworth

Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary  
Department of the Interior Department,  
1849 C St., NW,  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

It is of great concern that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) intends to remove federal protections from the endangered grizzly bear. Pre-contact, much of *Hopitutsqwa* (Land of the Hopi) was inhabited by grizzly bears. The bear is inseparable from the land. It is crucial to recognize that, from a Hopi perspective, Hopi land and religion are inseparable, and it is that which defines *Hopitutsqwa*.

The grizzly bear is not a trophy for the affluent to kill for "sport." The grizzly bear is sacred. Our people have a connection to the grizzly bear since our ancient migrations. We, the Bear Clan were the first to arrive here in the Southwest. Our people are referred to as the *Motisinom* (the First People). Anthropologists call us the Paleo-Archaic people. We regard everyone as our children.

The grizzly bear is held in high esteem. It was that, the most powerful of bears, which guided and protected the first among our people to arrive at *Tuwanasavi* or the center place, which continues to be our home today. We, Hopi, are the Bear Clan, and the bear from which we took our name gave rise to other important clans. We are their descendants, and the Bear Clan continues to be an influential clan in Hopi.

It would be inappropriate to elaborate upon the significance of the grizzly bear in Hopi culture, and so suffice it to say that from some of our historic clan foundations to our ceremonies, the grizzly bear – the white bear, yellow bear, grey bear and brown bear – is present among the *Katsinum* (Katsina spirit deities) with the blue bear and black bear. The grizzly bear's lifecycle is inextricably linked to the solar cycle, as is ours, as a people who nurture corn. When the *Katsinum* leave in the Homecoming dances at the end of present-day July to return to the heights of the San Francisco Peaks, this, historically, would have coincided with the

