

Dear President Obama,

November 21, 2016

We are all in your debt for your action on climate change, indeed your greatest legacy. However, one outstanding ruling remains: the fate of the nation's grizzly bears.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) currently is deciding the most significant wildlife issue of our time: the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear.

Renowned wildlife biologists, including E. O. Wilson, Jane Goodall and George Schaller, believe the removal of the Yellowstone grizzly from the Endangered Species list would be a tragic mistake. These scientists, along with eminent citizens from the region, such as philanthropists Ted Turner and Yvon Chouinard, signed a letter to you on June 3, 2016, opposing this misguided proposal.¹

Climate change is the key. Consider this excerpt from a video clip:

President Obama, June 18, 2016, in Yosemite: "The biggest challenge to (national parks) is climate change."

Contrast that statement with the FWS position as stated in the Federal Register, March 3, 2016: "Therefore, we conclude that the effects of climate change do not constitute a threat to (the Yellowstone grizzly bear population) now, nor are they anticipated to in the future."²

Since March 3, more than 800,000 citizens have signed petitions against Yellowstone grizzly bear delisting, variously citing the FWS's denial of climate change and the deadly trophy-hunting season that would begin once the Yellowstone grizzly is removed from Endangered Species Act protections.³

On September 27, 2016, U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva, ranking minority member on House Natural Resources Committee, wrote the FWS, detailing why he couldn't support delisting at this time.

In Grand Teton National Park on September 30, 2016, over 50 tribes and First Nations signed a historic international treaty, "The Grizzly: A Treaty of Cooperation, Cultural Revitalization and Restoration," in opposition to federal delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly.

Former superintendent of Yellowstone National Park (YNP) Michael Finley also opposes removing protection for the Yellowstone grizzlies. Significantly, the current Yellowstone superintendent, Dan Wenk, believes that the delisting rule fails to adequately protect grizzly bears and therefore, YNP does not support delisting.

We ask you to please look directly into this issue and the reasoning of FWS officials who dismiss the effects of climate change. President Obama, you are the last hope for Yellowstone's grizzlies. Please include bears in your enormous conservation legacy.

Respectfully,

Doug Peacock, Disabled Veteran, Guggenheim Fellow
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Cc: Sally Jewell, Secretary, Department of the Interior

¹ Peacock, Doug. Letter to President Obama. June 3, 2016. Signed by Edward O. Wilson, George B. Schaller, Jane Goodall, Michael Soule, Jeff Bridges, Douglas Brinkley, Yvon Chouinard, Michael Finley, Harrison Ford, Carl Hiaasen, Michael Keaton, Thomas McGuane, N. Scott Momaday, Terry Tempest Williams and Ted Turner.

² Source: <http://www.savetheyellowstonegrizzly.org>

³ These include petitions by the Park County Environmental Council (127,783 signatures), Wyoming Wildlife Advocates (136,812), Sierra Club (61,176), Humane Society (71,175), Force change.org (48,560) Lady Freethinker (102,757)), Care2 (97,710), White House petition (23,234), Add-up (3,949) and two no hunting petitions (at 4,421 and 3,184 each). Total: 803,681