

**Mike Crapo**  
**United States Senator**  
239 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**James E. Risch**  
**United States Senator**  
483 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510



**Mike Simpson**  
**Member of Congress**  
2084 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Russ Fulcher**  
**Member of Congress**  
1520 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 17, 2022

The Honorable Martha Williams  
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Williams,

We write regarding the March 9, 2022 petition submitted by the State of Idaho to delist the grizzly bear in the lower forty-eight states under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). We urge your agency to respond in a timely manner to this petition.

The ESA requires that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) decide within 90 days whether or not a filed petition contains evidence that delisting is warranted. Unfortunately, this timeline has not been maintained with Idaho's petition and has exacerbated serious issues currently experienced in Idaho's bear country. It also calls into question the agency's ability to make and publish findings within 12 months after receiving such a petition as required under the ESA.

Idahoans have a unique interest in the delisting of the grizzly bear due to a recent and significant increase in depredation events within the state. We have previously expressed our concerns to the Department of the Interior regarding the lack of action on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear population, a Distinct Population Segment whose management, by scientific recovery criteria, should return to the states. Similarly, the Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear populations are now rebounding. Over the past five years, Idaho's Boundary and Bonner Counties annually experienced two to three grizzly bear depredation events. This year that number was 21.

As grizzly bear populations continue to meet and exceed recovery targets, human-bear interactions will also increase. Pending resolution of Idaho's petition to delist the grizzly bear population in the lower 48 states, we request that USFWS devote more of the resources that are currently allocated to preventing human-bear interactions on the regional scale to Idaho.

We urge your agency to respond to the state of Idaho's petition and request a status report on the agency's consideration of this petition. Thank you for your action regarding these requests. We look forward to hearing back soon.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James E. Risch in blue ink.

James E. Risch  
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Mike Crapo in blue ink.

Mike Crapo  
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Mike Simpson in blue ink, including the initials "M.C." at the end.

Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Russ Fulcher in blue ink.

Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress