

**From** Tubbs, John **Date** Fri Dec 16 2011 16:02:59 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)  
**To** Koenigsberg, Melissa; Guertin, Stephen; Jacobson, Rachel L  
**Cc** Rae, Kerry L; Hildebrandt, Betsy  
**Subject** RE: Call from MT regarding Grizzly Bear DNA Study

Rachel et. al:

I just had a pleasant conversation with Commissioner Berget who spoke highly of the USGS grizzly bear research scientist Kate Kendall and the USFWS field supervisor Mark Wilson. I had expected the conversation to be focused on the grizzly bear research study and boned up on the details. However, the commissioner was instead concerned that Mr. Wilson does not have sufficient funding for necessary consultation on the Montinor mine that is proposed to tunnel under the Cabinet Wilderness of Montana.

Lincoln County has seen the lumber mills shut down; a vermiculite mine closed that left a legacy of asbestos contamination that is an EPA superfund issue, and there is very little opportunity for economic development. The proposed mines have been controversial and a key reason is incredible grizzly bear habitat the Cabinet Mountains provide. It is understandable that the Commissioner is trying to draw attention to the lack of funding in FWS to do consultation as this is a necessary step if the mine is to proceed.

Given this is a core FWS mission issue, not a USGS research issue, I think a follow-up call from the Director's office or Assistant Secretary's Office is warranted. The Commissioner said he wanted to raise it up through the Administration rather than going to Congress because he is supportive of the staff level assistance he is receiving from the Service.

Concerning the grizzly bear research, there is a funding shortfall for the research Dr. Kendall is trying to pursue this summer. A total of \$1.1 million has been raised from non-federal funds for a \$1.7 million research project. The split is about 50% state and local government and 50% private corporate funds. The grizzly bear interagency committee has endorsed the USGS research to estimate population through DNA sampling; however, USFWS grizzly bear coordinator Chris Servheen has said the study is unnecessary. USGS did apply for LCC funding but did not receive a grant. There is a strong partnership of local government, state wildlife agencies and corporations that is unusual so I would like to follow up on the possibility of funding through the LCC. The USFS has contributed ~\$32,000 but that is 1/10th the contributions of most non-federal participants.

John

-----Original Message-----

From: Koenigsberg, Melissa  
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 6:16 PM  
To: Guertin, Stephen; Tubbs, John  
Cc: Rae, Kerry L; Hildebrandt, Betsy  
Subject: Re: Call from MT regarding Grizzly Bear DNA Study

Steve,

Thanks so much for the information and quick turn around.  
John-does that suffice for an initial call?

-M

----- Original Message -----

From: Guertin, Stephen  
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 06:02 PM  
To: Koenigsberg, Melissa; Tubbs, John  
Cc: Rae, Kerry L; Hildebrandt, Betsy  
Subject: RE: Call from MT regarding Grizzly Bear DNA Study

Hi Melissa

The proposed Cabinet Yaak Grizzly Bear DNA Study has been sponsored by the local communities who hope that it would yield a larger population size (than our current couple of dozen) in hopes this would help to ease some ESA restrictions in the region so that the Revett Mine and Montanore Mines could move forward and turn around the dire economic plight of Lincoln County Montana and Boundary County Idaho.

The local House Member of the Montana legislature earmarked about \$0.5 million of the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks budget as seed money for this project. They currently have commitments of about \$1.2 million from local counties, FWP, the mining companies, Plum Creek Timber etc. Total study cost estimated at \$1.7 million.

Kate Kendall with USGS will be the project lead. During 2011 season they have done initial planning. During 2012 season the plan is to set up snags on 1017 bear rub sites for sampling. During 2013 genetic sampling will be completed and population estimate made. This is the technique that Kate previously used in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem.

None of the Federal land management agencies have contributed funding. The USFS supports the project because they hope to get certainty of the population size to help avoid future litigation on their future projects. We support the project because we recognize it is a priority for the local communities but have not contributed money since our recovery budget is prioritized elsewhere but have pledged in kind contributions such as our on the ground biologist and logistics. We have had several conference calls (I participated) with Commissioner Berget and reinforced our logistical support for the study but cautioned that we could not divert ongoing recovery funding to help offset the cost. He appears to make the argument (below, probably based on reports from our project leader in Montana) that the Service provides a large amount of recovery funding to California and a lesser amount to Montana (that is accurate, there are also alot more listed species in California so California gets a larger recovery budget). Senator Risch's (Idaho) staff have sat in on these calls. Congressman Rehberg (Montana) has written us about this study. Director Ashe just recently discussed this study with Senator Tester (Montana). Congressional leadership might once have turned to an earmark for this project but earmarks have been abolished, and this project is not going to raise to the level of our priorities for ongoing grizzly bear recovery in the NCDE or our efforts to delist the Yellowstone population.

(The FWS has previously done sequenced DNA hair studies In this ecosystem and have collared and monitored and tracked these animals and our folks are very confident with our population estimates. Due to the high mortalities even with augmentation these animals are struggling and the latest 5 year review recommends an increase in protection from threatened to endangered. Even so, we support this study since it will provide some much needed certainty to the public on this issue. This situation is also very different from the NCDE where there had been no population estimates prior to the DNA study).

Let me know if you need any more details

Steve

-----Original Message-----

From: Koenigsberg, Melissa

Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 2:55 PM

To: Tubbs, John

Cc: Rae, Kerry L; Hildebrandt, Betsy; Guertin, Stephen

Subject: Re: Call from MT regarding Grizzly Bear DNA Study

Steve,

See below. Commissioner Berget of Libby, MT called to talk with ASFWP or Director Ashe about a Grizzly Bear DNA study that is a GS study. He said he has some issues with funding for the study. Do you have any background about this study or a FWS contact that we could get more information? John Tubbs is willing to return the call since it is a GS study.

Thanks for your help.

-Melissa

----- Original Message -----

From: Tubbs, John  
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 04:39 PM  
To: Koenigsberg, Melissa  
Cc: Rae, Kerry L; Jacobson, Rachel L; Hildebrandt, Betsy  
Subject: RE: Call from MT regarding Grizzly Bear DNA Study

Also, Commissioner Berget represents Libby Montana not Livingston so I am pretty sure this would be about Grizzly research in Northwestern Montana near the Canadian border.

John

-----Original Message-----

From: Koenigsberg, Melissa  
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 4:19 PM  
To: Tubbs, John  
Cc: Rae, Kerry L; Jacobson, Rachel L; Hildebrandt, Betsy  
Subject: Re: Call from MT regarding Grizzly Bear DNA Study

John,

I don't know who the FWS contacts he is referring to, he did not specify. Betsy-would Steve guertin be a good place to start?

----- Original Message -----

From: Tubbs, John  
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 04:15 PM  
To: Koenigsberg, Melissa  
Cc: Rae, Kerry L; Jacobson, Rachel L  
Subject: RE: Call from MT regarding Grizzly Bear DNA Study

I can call Mr. Berget back but I need a bit of background first. Who are the FWS and USGS contacts?

John

-----Original Message-----

From: Koenigsberg, Melissa  
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 4:06 PM  
To: Tubbs, John  
Cc: Rae, Kerry L; Jacobson, Rachel L  
Subject: Call from MT regarding Grizzly Bear DNA Study

John,

FWS received a phone message for Rachel from Lincoln County Commissioner Tony Berget from Livingston, Montana (406-293-1776). He says he has talked to FWS management and is not satisfied with the answers that he received. I talked to FWS and they said that this is a USGS study. I mentioned it to Kerry Rae and she thought you might be willing to return the call.

Let me know if you are able to make this call.

Thanks,

Melissa

-----Original Message-----

From: Morgan, Rasheedah  
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 12:49 PM  
To: Jacobson, Rachel - Deputy Solicitor; Day, Elizabeth  
Cc: Koenigsberg, Melissa  
Subject: RE: Phone Message

I just spoke with Mr. Berget. He is the Lincoln county commissioner for Montana. He is seeking increased funding for a Grizzly Bear DNA Study. He feels that funding for the California region is higher than for Montana and he has talked to our FWS management and received no satisfactory answers. Your name was given him and he and others on his staff would like to talk with you and or Dan Ashe before they go their elected senator(s) for help.

M. Rasheedah Morgan  
Executive Assistant  
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
(P) 202-208-5378  
(F) 202-208-4684

-----Original Message-----

From: Jacobson, Rachel - Deputy Solicitor  
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 12:33 PM  
To: Day, Elizabeth  
Cc: Koenigsberg, Melissa; Morgan, Rasheedah  
Subject: Re: Phone Message

Do we know the purpose of the call?

----- Original Message -----

From: Elizabeth\_Day@fws.gov [[mailto:Elizabeth\\_Day@fws.gov](mailto:Elizabeth_Day@fws.gov)]  
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 12:24 PM  
To: Jacobson, Rachel - Deputy Solicitor  
Subject: Phone Message

Hi Rachel,

I have a phone message for you.....Commissioner Tony Berget from Livingston, Montana called and would like you to call him back; his number  
406-293-1776

Thank you

Elizabeth Day  
Management Assistant (Room 657)  
National Wildlife Refuges System  
Division of Natural Resources  
4401 N Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, VA 22203

3/13/12

RE: Call from MT regarding Grizzly Bear DNA Study - Enterprise Vault Archived Item

703-358-2467 (office)

703-358-1929 (fax)

## Bean, Michael

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**From:** Tom France [france@nwf.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 5:44 PM  
**To:** Bean, Michael  
**Subject:** Centennial Mountain sheep grazing  
**Attachments:** SALAZAR TO VILSACK proposed let RE USSES tmf (2).docx; NGOs to Salazar FINAL.pdf; NGOs to Vilsack FINAL.pdf; BLM Bozorth comments Sheep Station DEIS September 2011.docx; FWS BO on USSES 11\_11 11\_F\_0326\_Sheep.pdf

Michael – I spoke to you at the North American about the pending decision at USDA regarding grazing domestic sheep on pastures managed by the Agricultural Research Station in the Centennial Mountains along the Montana-Idaho border. Attached are letters from the CEO's of NWF, NRDC, DoW and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition urging Secretary Visack to end domestic sheep grazing in the Centennials, and to Secretary Salazar urging him to weigh in with Vilsack on behalf of BLM, FWS and NPS. I also attach a draft letter that Secretary Salazar might send.

In addition I include three pertinent comments. I attach NWF's letter as an example of many, many letters that were submitted by NGO's and individuals on the sheep station EIS. I attach a letter submitted by the BLM because it provides a rich history of efforts by DOI and USDA agencies to reduce grizzly conflicts in the Greater Yellowstone. Finally I attach the Bi-Op by FWS. Mostly the Bi-Op says that the grazing in the centennials is not likely to jeopardize grizzlies. We agree, but that doesn't mean grazing should continue. The Bi-Op also makes the following conservation recommendation:

### VIII. CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 7(a)(1) of the Act directs Federal agencies to utilize their authorities to further the purposes of the Act by carrying out conservation programs for the benefit of endangered and threatened species. Conservation recommendations are discretionary agency activities to minimize or avoid adverse effects of a proposed action on listed species or critical habitat, to help implement recovery programs, or to develop new information on listed species. The Service recommends the Sheep Station seek replacement lands outside of known grizzly bear use areas for the Sheep Station's Summer Range and the Forest's Meyer's Creek Allotment. This would reduce the likelihood of adverse affects to grizzly bears, at their current distribution, to a discountable level.

The decision to stop grazing a few hundred sheep for two months in exchange for significant benefits to wildlife should be easy. But as long as the decision remains with ARS, I fear the sheep grazing will continue literally forever. I'm hopeful Secretary Salazar can reach Secretary Vilsack reach the right decision. Thanks for your help.

DRAFT PROPOSED LETTER FROM KEN SALAZAR TO USDA SECRETARY TOM VILSACK RE: USSES EIS

Dear Tom,

The Agricultural Research Service Sheep Experimental Station (USSES) based in Dubois Idaho is in the process of completing an EIS on whether to continue sheep grazing in the Centennial Mountains west of Yellowstone Park. I want to alert you to the fact that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Park Service (NPS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) all conclude that continued domestic sheep grazing in the Centennials is not consistent with either agency land use plans or federal wildlife objectives. I believe this is also the position of the USDA Forest Service

In 2007, FWS, BLM, NPS, USDA Forest Service and the state wildlife agencies for Montana, Idaho and Wyoming completed a comprehensive strategy for grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The purpose of this strategy was to guide management after Yellowstone grizzlies were taken off the list of threatened and endangered species. While the Ninth Circuit has reversed the decision to delist, grizzly recovery in the Yellowstone is a great conservation success story and the agency cooperation that went into the preparation and adoption of the Conservation Strategy unprecedented.

Because of the inherent conflicts between grizzlies and domestic sheep, a principle objective of the Conservation Strategy was to phase out sheep grazing in grizzly habitat. Through public-private partnerships, all domestic sheep grazing on federal land has now been phased out in the Greater Yellowstone with one exception – U.S. Experimental Sheep Station. Other federal policies, including wolf recovery and , enhancing wildlife connectivity between the Greater Yellowstone and the central Idaho are also compromised by continued grazing on Sheep Station pastures in the Centennials.

It is my understanding that there is no essential research that is tied to the high elevation pastures in the Centennials and that the Sheep Station can accomplish its mission by using pastures around Dubois where wildlife conflicts do not exist. Under such circumstances, it is my hope that USDA would decide to follow the lead of the natural resource agencies and end domestic sheep grazing in the Centennials.

Very Truly Yours,

Ken Salazar



March 28, 2012

Thomas Vilsack, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

RE: Follow up to Feb. 22, 2012 meeting with Under Secretary Bartuska concerning draft EIS for USDA ARS Sheep Experimental Station in Dubois, ID

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We appreciate the opportunity provided by the Department for our staff to talk to Deputy Under Secretary Ann Bartuska and Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Director Ed Knipling in February concerning ARS's Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho. We are writing now to emphasize that the points raised during that meeting are of very high concern for our organizations. We also write to emphasize our concern that the decision-making process being employed by the Department will likely result in a decision that works against good wildlife and agricultural policies within the USDA, the Department of Interior, and state fish and wildlife agencies in Montana and Idaho, unless a broader perspective is adopted.

At our meeting, we were informed that the decision as to whether to continue ARS sheep grazing in the Centennial Mountains along the Idaho-Montana border would remain with the Director of ARS's Pacific West Area. Given the on-going efforts of ARS to justify continued grazing, we have no confidence that the upcoming decision on the grazing in the Centennial Mountains will be responsive to the concerns of other federal agencies or of conservation groups. We respectfully request your oversight of the decision-making process and request specifically that the decision about whether, and where, to continue sheep grazing in connection with the Sheep Experimentation Station be made by your office. We are confident that, after fully considering this issue, you will decide to end ARS's grazing in the Centennial Mountains (specifically the East and West summer pastures owned by ARS and the Meyers Creek Forest Service allotment) and on the Bernice and Snake-Kelly allotments.

While the comment record on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) provides abundant documentation on why ARS should end sheep grazing in areas with wildlife conflicts and conform to the management direction of other agencies, a few salient points stand out, as follows.

*Grazing and Associated Activities Project 2010 Draft EIS, undated, , and letter signed by Patrick J. Flowers, Region 3 Supervisor, Montana FWP, Jan. 25, 2010).*

We believe that ARS's continued pursuit through the environmental analysis to permit grazing in the contested pastures does not reflect these facts or the larger public interest. Absent your intervention, we are concerned that these issues will not be fully or properly considered by the Department.

Thank you for consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,



Larry Schweiger, President and CEO  
National Wildlife Federation

Jamie Clark, President  
Defenders of Wildlife

Francis Beinecke, President  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Mike Clark, Executive Director  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition

c: Ann Bartuska, Deputy Under Secretary  
USDA REE

Tom France, Regional Executive Director  
National Wildlife Federation

Mike Leahy, Rocky Mountain Regional Director  
Defenders of Wildlife

Andrea Santarsiere, Idaho Conservation and Legal Associate  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Andrew Wetzler, Co-Director, Land & Wildlife Program  
Natural Resources Defense Council



March 28, 2012

Ken Salazar, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street  
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: Request re: USDA Sheep Experimental Station grazing in critical wildlife area on, and adjacent to, Department of Interior lands.

Dear Secretary Salazar:

As the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS), and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) well know, our organizations have been deeply involved in wildlife conservation work in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem for many years. We have often partnered with Department of Interior (DOI) agencies on wildlife initiatives and we believe much progress has been made in making the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem a showcase for wildlife restoration.

For the last several years, we have collectively pushed the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to end domestic sheep grazing in the high elevation pastures of the Centennial Mountains to enhance wildlife connectivity between the Greater Yellowstone and the Salmon Selway ecosystems and, thereby, eliminate conflicts with grizzly bears and wolves. DOI agencies have been at the forefront of this effort. ARS is now considering the future direction of its grazing activities. Because multiple agencies within the DOI have repeatedly expressed deep concerns over ARS's continued grazing of sheep in the Centennial Mountains, we ask your help in raising this issue with Secretary Vilsack.

By way of background, the USDA Experimental Sheep Station in Dubois, Idaho has grazed sheep in the Centennial Mountains for decades. This sheep grazing is occurring in an area that is of increasingly critical importance to grizzly bears and other wildlife species in, and adjacent to, the Grizzly Bear Primary Conservation Area in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. With the sole exception of ARS, every federal and state agency with management responsibility in Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem—including the BLM, NPS, and FWS—agree that continued sheep grazing in this area is in sharp conflict with the increasing use of the Centennial Mountains by grizzly bears and wolves.

method of dealing with grizzly bear conflicts. (*Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly bear in the Greater Yellowstone Area, March 2007 page 43*).

We, therefore, respectfully request that you elevate these concerns raised by your agencies with Secretary Vilsack and encourage him to ensure that any decision to continue grazing activities at the Sheep Experiment Station reflects these views and is made at the highest levels of his Department.

Thank you for consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,



Larry Schweiger, President and CEO  
National Wildlife Federation

Jamie Clark, President  
Defenders of Wildlife

Francis Beinecke, President  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Mike Clark, Executive Director  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition

c: Tom France, Regional Executive Director  
National Wildlife Federation

Mike Leahy, Rocky Mountain Regional Director  
Defenders of Wildlife

Andrea Santarsiere, Idaho Conservation and Legal Associate  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Andrew Wetzler, Co-Director, Land & Wildlife Program  
Natural Resources Defense Council



## United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Dillon Field Office  
1005 Selway Drive  
Dillon, Montana 59725  
Phone: 406-683-8000 Fax: 406-683-8066  
<http://www.blm.gov/mt>

In Reply To:

6843 (MTB050)

September 20, 2011

Dr. Andrew C. Hammond  
Director USDA ARS Pacific West Area  
ATTN: USSES Grazing Project 2010 Scoping  
800 Buchanan Street  
Albany, CQA 94710

Dear Dr. Hammond:

The following are the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Dillon Field Office comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) U.S. Sheep Experiment Station Grazing and Associated Activities Project 2010. While the BLM has no objection to the research goals and objectives of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), U.S. Sheep Experiment Station (USSES) in Dubois, Idaho. It is our belief that the goals and objectives of the USSES can be achieved in an area that doesn't pose a significant threat to grizzly bears. It is time for the ARS USSES to cease to allow domestic sheep to occupy lands in the Centennial Mountains of Idaho and Montana.

The East Summer Range (Tom's Creek) and West Summer Range (Odell Creek and Big Mountain) contain suitable grizzly bear habitat that is occupied by grizzly bears.

While the USSES lands are not contained within the Primary Conservation Area (PCA) for the Yellowstone Distinct Population Segment of grizzly bears, a species on the Endangered Species Act Threatened Species List, the Odell Creek and Big Mountain Allotments (West Summer Range) and Tom Creek Allotment (East Summer Range) are adjacent to and/or directly bordered by the PCA. The West and East Summer Ranges are both within occupied grizzly bear habitat. The Meyers Creek USFS allotment is also entirely within the PCA.

The BLM requests that you select Alternative 3 of the DEIS for U.S. Sheep Experiment Station Grazing and Associated Activities project 2010. The BLM requests that you eliminate sheep grazing in the USSES West and East Summer Ranges, the Humphrey Ranch, the East Beaver and Meyers USFS allotments. We believe that the twenty percent reduction in sheep number available for research could be replaced elsewhere on USDA lands where domestic sheep do not pose a significant threat to grizzly bears and preclude the BLM's ability to see Big Horn Sheep located in the Centennial Mountains of Montana. This would provide greatly increased

The federal government shouldn't use a low bar measure such a "Continuing grazing on the allotment may impact individual grizzly bears or their habitat, but would not likely contribute to trends towards federal listing or loss of viability to the population or species." to determine whether or not to continue grazing sheep in occupied grizzly bear habitat. Rather the federal Government should set an example in taking positive action to assist in the recovery of a threatened species.

The continued grazing of domestic sheep in the Centennial Mountains also inhibits the Ecosystem Linkage goal of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee contained in the five year (2009-2013) work plan of action for the Yellowstone Ecosystem. This linkage goal states: "Ecosystem Linkage – Improve conditions that allow interchange and dispersal between these five areas that will enhance population viability, assure long-term recovery, and allow for dispersal, reinforcement and re-occupancy from higher to lower density areas. Improve movement conditions by identifying movement opportunity areas and delivering conservation action in 9 key areas: Between the Bitterroot and Yellowstone Ecosystem".

The continued grazing of sheep in the East, West and Humphrey Pastures is also inconsistent with the Goal 3 for the Grizzly Bear identified in the Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Southwestern Montana 2002-2012, October 2002. This goal states: "Grizzly Bear Management Goal—To manage for a recovered grizzly bear population in southwestern Montana and to provide for a continuing expansion of that population into areas that are biologically suitable and socially acceptable. This should allow FWP to achieve and maintain population levels that support managing the bear as a game animal along with other species of native wildlife and provide some regulated hunting when and where appropriate."

The following is an excerpt from page 2 of the Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Southwestern Montana 2002-1012 Final Programmatic Impact Statement October 2002. "Among the key recommendations from the Governor's Roundtable (appointed by the governors of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming) was support for continued management of the proposed Primary Conservation Area (PCA) as a secure "core" area for grizzly bears within the Yellowstone Ecosystem. The group also recommended that the three states develop management plans for the areas outside the PCA to:

1. Ensure the long-term viability of bears and avoid the need to relist the species under the Endangered Species Act.
2. Support expansion of grizzly bears beyond the PCA in areas that are biologically suitable and socially acceptable.
3. Manage the grizzly bear as a game animal including allowing regulated hunting when and where appropriate.

The continued grazing of domestic sheep by the USSES in the Centennial Mountains does not contribute towards achieving these goals and recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft EIS for the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station Grazing and Associated Activities Project 2010 EIS.

## Bean, Michael

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**From:** Tom France [france@nwf.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 6:22 PM  
**To:** Bean, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Cenntennial Mountain sheep grazing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Without a doubt, Chris Servheen. I think you know Chris is the Recovery Coordinator and did not write the bi-op. Nonetheless, he is extraordinarily knowledgeable about both grizzlies and connectivity issues in the High Divide.

Here's Chris's contact info:

Dr. Chris Servheen  
University Hall, Room 309  
University of Montana  
Missoula, Montana 59812  
telephone 406-243-4903  
fax 406-329-3212

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**From:** Bean, Michael [mailto:Michael.Bean@ios.doi.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 3:58 PM  
**To:** Tom France  
**Subject:** RE: Cenntennial Mountain sheep grazing

Thanks, Tom. Who at FWS is most knowledgeable/concerned about this issue?

Michael J. Bean  
Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Room 3152  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-208-4416  
202-372-7139 (fax)

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**From:** Tom France [mailto:france@nwf.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 5:44 PM  
**To:** Bean, Michael  
**Subject:** Cenntennial Mountain sheep grazing

Michael – I spoke to you at the North American about the pending decision at USDA regarding grazing domestic sheep on pastures managed by the Agricultural Research Station in the Centennial Mountains along the Montana-Idaho border. Attached are letters from the CEO's of NWF, NRDC, DoW and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition urging Secretary Visack to end domestic sheep grazing in the Centennials, and to Secretary Salazar urging him to weigh in with Vilsack on behalf of BLM, FWS and NPS. I also attach a draft letter that Secretary Salazar might send.

In addition I include three pertinent comments. I attach NWF's letter as an example of many, many letters that were submitted by NGO's and individuals on the sheep station EIS. I attach a letter

## Bean, Michael

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**From:** Tom France [france@nwf.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 6:31 PM  
**To:** Bean, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Cenntennial Mountain sheep grazing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Michael – in truth, NPS has not weighed in directly on the Sheep Station, essentially because the ARS pastures are 30 airline miles away from the park. Nonetheless, NPS and every other federal agency in the GYA – except ARS – has signed on to the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy. Here’s how the BLM’s area manager Tim Bozorth set forth the federal commitment in his letter to ARS.

For a federal agency such as ARS USSES to graze sheep in these areas is in direct conflict with the Final Conservation Strategy for Grizzly Bears in the Greater Yellowstone Area. In the *Final Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy Developed by the Interagency Conservation Strategy Team March 2007* section Mortality Reduction Efforts related to Habitat: “The number of domestic sheep allotments and the number of domestic sheep grazing within the PCA (Primary Conservation Area) has been reduced; the remaining domestic sheep allotments are to be phased out as opportunities arise. Sheep grazing permittees and herders must follow strict requirements in their grazing permits to protect grizzly bears and reduce grizzly bear/grazing conflicts”.

The USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) made commitments in the Final Conservation Strategy for Grizzly Bears in the Greater Yellowstone Area to evaluate monitor and phase out existing sheep grazing allotments on federal land as opportunities arose with willing permittees. As an agency of USDA, ARS should be consistent with the USDA Forest Service and other federal agencies in eliminating sheep grazing in occupied grizzly bear habitat. Since the federal government (ARS) is the operator on federal lands, in this case, the ARS, USSES has the ability to discontinue sheep grazing in these areas and eliminate this potential threat to grizzly bear survival in this critical habitat.

I would add that all the state fish and wildlife agencies also signed the Conservation Strategy.

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**From:** Bean, Michael [<mailto:Michael.Bean@ios.doi.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 4:00 PM  
**To:** Tom France  
**Subject:** RE: Cenntennial Mountain sheep grazing

Tom: Your draft letter refers to NPS having opposed the sheep station, but you did not attach NPS comments. Do you have them?

Michael J. Bean  
Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Room 3152  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-208-4416  
202-372-7139 (fax)

## Bean, Michael

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**From:** Tom France [france@nwf.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 25, 2012 6:34 PM  
**To:** Bean, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Cenntennial Mountain sheep grazing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Michael – do you have any intel on where things stand? The Yellowstone Interagency Working Group met last week and Tim Bozorth from the BLM pushed them into agreeing to write a letter endorsing the conservation recommendations of the FWS biological opinion. The letter should go to Vilsack soon and represents all the Yellowstone agencies, including NPS, FWS, BLM and the Forest Service.

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**From:** Bean, Michael [mailto:Michael.Bean@ios.doi.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 1:24 PM  
**To:** Tom France  
**Subject:** RE: Cenntennial Mountain sheep grazing

Thanks, Tom. Can you help me understand the following: the FWS BO recommends closing the East and West summer pastures and the Meyers Creek allotment. However, there appear to be other allotments (Snakey, Kelly, East Beaver, and Bernice) as well as Henninger Ranch, Humphrey Ranch and “Headquarters” where experimental sheep grazing occurs. If I understand the situation, you want to end grazing at all of these areas (not just the areas identified in the BO). Why was the FWS recommendation limited as it was (or conversely, why do you want to close areas not recommended for closure in the BO)? Thanks very much.

Michael J. Bean  
Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Room 3152  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-208-4416  
202-372-7139 (fax)

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**From:** Tom France [mailto:france@nwf.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 5:44 PM  
**To:** Bean, Michael  
**Subject:** Cenntennial Mountain sheep grazing

Michael – I spoke to you at the North American about the pending decision at USDA regarding grazing domestic sheep on pastures managed by the Agricultural Research Station in the Centennial Mountains along the Montana-Idaho border. Attached are letters from the CEO’s of NWF, NRDC, DoW and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition urging Secretary Visack to end domestic sheep grazing in the Centennials, and to Secretary Salazar urging him to weigh in with Vilsack on behalf of BLM, FWS and NPS. I also attach a draft letter that Secretary Salazar might send.

In addition I include three pertinent comments. I attach NWF’s letter as an example of many, many letters that were submitted by NGO’s and individuals on the sheep station EIS. I attach a letter submitted by the BLM because it provides a rich history of efforts by DOI and USDA agencies to reduce grizzly conflicts in the Greater Yellowstone. Finally I attach the Bi-Op by FWS. Mostly the Bi-Op says that the grazing in the centennials is not likely to jeopardize grizzlies. We agree, but that

## Bean, Michael

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**From:** Frazer, Gary D  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 11:45 AM  
**To:** Ashe, D M  
**Cc:** Bean, Michael; Siekaniec, Gregory; Gould, R W; Hildebrandt, Betsy; Thorson, Robyn; Hannan, Richard; Rabot, Theresa; Kelly, Brian T; Guertin, Stephen; Walsh, Noreen; Thabault, Michael; Servheen, Chris; Souza, Paul; Sayers, Rick; Nelson, Marjorie; Morgan, Don  
**Subject:** Centennial Mountain sheep grazing  
**Attachments:** briefing paper on USSES sheep grazing and grizzly bear\_04262012.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dan – Here's a briefing statement on the situation. It's carefully worded, but the fundamental message is this – the U.S.  
(b) (5)

If you need anything else, let me know. -- GDF

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**From:** Frazer, Gary D  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2012 6:27 PM  
**To:** Rabot, Theresa; 'Thabault, Michael (michael\_thabault@fws.gov)'  
**Cc:** Thorson, Robyn; Hannan, Richard; Guertin, Stephen; Walsh, Noreen; Bean, Michael; Siekaniec, Gregory; Gould, R W (r\_w\_gould@fws.gov); Paul Souza (paul\_souza@fws.gov); Sayers, Rick; Nelson, Marjorie  
**Subject:** FW: Yellowstone grizzly options for path forward

Terry/Mike – Can the two Regions coordinate as needed to put a briefing paper together to summarize this issue and recommend a path forward? Thanks. -- GDF

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**From:** Ashe, D M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2012 8:41 PM  
**To:** Bean, Michael  
**Cc:** Frazer, Gary D; Siekaniec, Gregory; Gould, R W  
**Subject:** Re: Yellowstone grizzly options for path forward

Let's get a BP together. I need to understand this a bit better, but then we can raise it with the Secretary. Sounds like a good plan.

Dan Ashe  
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Apr 10, 2012, at 12:10 PM, "Bean, Michael" <[Michael.Bean@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Michael.Bean@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

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-- GDF

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**From:** Ashe, D M  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 1:15 PM  
**To:** Frazer, Gary D  
**Cc:** Siekaniec, Gregory; Gould, R W; Bean, Michael; Guertin, Stephen; Souza, Paul; Walsh, Noreen; Thabault, Michael; Sayers, Rick  
**Subject:** Re: Yellowstone grizzly options for path forward

(b) (5)

Dan Ashe  
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Mar 19, 2012, at 7:24 AM, "Frazer, Gary D" <[gary\\_frazer@fws.gov](mailto:gary_frazer@fws.gov)> wrote:

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

Gary Frazer

April 26, 2012

**INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR**

**FROM:** Robyn Thorson, Pacific Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**CC:** Brian T. Kelly, State Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office, Boise, Idaho

**SUBJECT:** Non-jeopardy Biological Opinion on grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) for grazing  
overseen by the US Sheep Experimental Station.

(b) (5)

## Bean, Michael

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**From:** Ashe, D M  
**Sent:** Monday, August 13, 2012 4:36 PM  
**To:** Bean, Michael  
**Cc:** Frazer, Gary D  
**Subject:** Re: Centennial Mountain sheep grazing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

(b) (5)

Dan Ashe  
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Aug 13, 2012, at 4:10 PM, "Bean, Michael" <[Michael.Bean@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Michael.Bean@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Dan:

(b) (5)

Michael J. Bean  
Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Room 3152  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-208-4416  
202-372-7139 (fax)

---

**From:** Frazer, Gary D  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 11:45 AM  
**To:** Ashe, D M  
**Cc:** Bean, Michael; Siekaniec, Gregory; Gould, R W; Hildebrandt, Betsy; Thorson, Robyn; Hannan,

(b) (5)

Michael J. Bean  
Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Room 3152  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-208-4416  
202-372-7139 (fax)

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**From:** Ashe, D M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2012 12:58 PM  
**To:** Frazer, Gary D  
**Cc:** Siekaniec, Gregory; Gould, R W; Bean, Michael; Guertin, Stephen; Souza, Paul; Walsh, Noreen; Thabault, Michael; Sayers, Rick; Chavarria, Gabriela D  
**Subject:** RE: Yellowstone grizzly options for path forward

Aren't you supposed to be on a beach, and drinking something with lots of rum in it?

(b) (5)

That's my two cents.

Dan.

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**From:** Frazer, Gary D  
**Sent:** Monday, April 02, 2012 11:20 PM  
**To:** Ashe, D M  
**Cc:** Siekaniec, Gregory; Gould, R W; Bean, Michael; Guertin, Stephen; Souza, Paul; Walsh, Noreen; Thabault, Michael; Sayers, Rick  
**Subject:** RE: Yellowstone grizzly options for path forward

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Gary Frazer

Assistant Director - Endangered Species

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ph (202) 208-4646

<briefing paper on USSES sheep grazing and grizzly bear\_04262012.docx>

## Bean, Michael

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**From:** Bean, Michael  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 15, 2012 1:56 PM  
**To:** Ashe, D M  
**Cc:** Frazer, Gary D  
**Subject:** RE: Centennial Mountain sheep grazing  
**Attachments:** grizzly memo.doc

Dan: Attached is a draft information memo that I prepared. It is my understanding that KLS will be in the office next Monday and Tuesday, but not back again until September.

Michael J. Bean  
Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Room 3152  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-208-4416  
202-372-7139 (fax)

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**From:** Ashe, D M  
**Sent:** Monday, August 13, 2012 4:36 PM  
**To:** Bean, Michael  
**Cc:** Frazer, Gary D  
**Subject:** Re: Centennial Mountain sheep grazing

(b) (5)

Dan Ashe  
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Aug 13, 2012, at 4:10 PM, "Bean, Michael" <[Michael\\_Bean@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Michael_Bean@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Dan:

(b) (5)

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Apr 10, 2012, at 12:10 PM, "Bean, Michael" <[Michael\\_Bean@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Michael_Bean@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

(b) (5)

Michael J. Bean  
Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Room 3152  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-208-4416  
202-372-7139 (fax)

---

**From:** Ashe, D M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2012 12:58 PM  
**To:** Frazer, Gary D  
**Cc:** Siekaniec, Gregory; Gould, R W; Bean, Michael; Guertin, Stephen; Souza, Paul; Walsh, Noreen; Thabault, Michael; Sayers, Rick; Chavarria, Gabriela D  
**Subject:** RE: Yellowstone grizzly options for path forward

Aren't you supposed to be on a beach, and drinking something with lots of rum in it?

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Gary Frazer

Assistant Director - Endangered Species

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ph (202) 208-4646

<briefing paper on USSES sheep grazing and grizzly bear\_04262012.docx>

**INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

**FROM:** Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**CC:** Rachel Jacobson

**DATE:**

**SUBJECT:** Grizzly Bear Conservation and USDA's Sheep Experiment Station

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#### IV. ATTACHMENTS

Maps of the Sheep Experiment Station lands can be seen at [http://www.ars.usda.gov/SP2UserFiles/Place/53640000/USSESPROJECT/DEIS/20110727-USSES-EIS\\_Appendices.pdf](http://www.ars.usda.gov/SP2UserFiles/Place/53640000/USSESPROJECT/DEIS/20110727-USSES-EIS_Appendices.pdf), particularly pages A-5 and A-6.