

"Chris Servheen"
<grizz@selway.umt.edu>

09/27/2000 02:54
AM

To: "Johnna Roy" <Johnna_Roy@r1.fws.gov>, "Bob Ruesink"
<Bob_Ruesink@fws.gov>, "Charlie Scott"
<Charlie_Scott@fws.gov>, "Susan Linner" <Susan_Linner@fws.gov>
CC:
Subject: FW: Grizzly letter to Burns

FYI. NWF still wants the rider. I have told them such a rider is an inappropriate way to fund an important recovery program. Their response is that the Service has failed to state that we will fund it, so they need a rider to get the money.

Christopher Servheen, Ph.D.
USFWS
University Hall, Room 309
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812
Fax 406-329-3212

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

From: THOMAS France [mailto:france@nwf.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2000 3:51 PM
To: greg@intforest.org; grizz@selway.umt.edu
Subject: Fwd: Grizzly letter to Burns

The attached letter was set to Conrad Burns yesterday afternoon. Burns continues to hold tough on his rider and we appreciate it.

..... Message from "Lesli Gray" <Gray@nwf.org> on Wed, 27 Sep 2000 14:43:48 -0000

To: "THOMAS France" <FRANCE@nwf.org>, "Della Schweiger"
<Schweiger@nwf.org>

Subject Grizzly letter to Burns

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Tom and Della, attached is the letter that was sent to Sen. Burns last evening. lesli

NWF burns letter.

September 26, 2000

The Honorable Conrad Burns
United States Senate
187 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Burns:

I write to offer the National Wildlife Federation's support for the Interior Appropriation Conference Committee report language on the Selway-Bitterroot grizzly reintroduction. We appreciate your willingness to work with us on this language and we believe it represents a positive step forward.

While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has prepared a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the reintroduction proposal, some elements of the public in Montana and Idaho continue to have doubts about the habitat suitability of the area for grizzly bears. In approving the grizzly reintroduction plan, the USFWS will vest a local Citizen Management Committee (CMC) with authority over the program. Your proposal, which has been accepted by the conferees, provides \$100,000 to the CMC, and directs it to commission a scientific peer review process to examine the habitat studies done to date. We believe this process will help to resolve public doubts about both habitat suitability and the quality of science employed by the USFWS in the EIS process.

Under the CMC proposal, the earliest that grizzly bears can be released into the Selway-Bitterroot is the summer of 2002. The reasoning behind this extended timeline is to allow the CMC to get on its feet and to promote an effective, educational effort on the reintroduction program and grizzly bear management. A public review of the habitat studies done to date fits well into this workplan and will facilitate, rather than compromise, the reintroduction schedule. If the peer review process raises new questions about habitat suitability, there will be time for the USFWS to re-examine this issue. If the peer review sustains the conclusion that there is sufficient habitat to support a viable population of grizzly bears, the CMC will have taken an important step forward in building public support for the reintroduction program.

Again, we appreciate your efforts on this issue. Please feel free to contact me if the National Wildlife Federation can provide additional support or information.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Shimberg
Vice President

Office of Federal and International Affairs

SJS/lg

cc: Mr. George Frampton, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality

