

STEVE DAINES  
MONTANA

320 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-2651

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2606

COMMITTEES  
APPROPRIATIONS  
ENERGY AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
FINANCE  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

September 9, 2020

The Honorable Aurelia Skipwith  
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Skipwith,


Thank you for your continued efforts on wildlife management and conservation. Under your leadership, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has adopted a renewed focus on tailoring conservation to local and state needs and improving the implementation of the Endangered Species Act by clarifying regulations, policies, and definitions.

Within the last year, there have been multiple developments on the status of grizzly bears in Montana. In January, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service initiated a 5-year status review of the grizzly bear in the lower-48 states. Last Spring, the Department of the Interior announced a new approach and additional resources to reduce human-bear conflict in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the State of Montana. In July, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed a 2018 Federal District Court ruling that required the grizzly bear to be listed as an endangered species, and just last month the Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council finalized recommendations for long-term bear management and conservation across the state.

Given these new developments and the importance of grizzly bear conservation and management to the state, I would like to invite you to join me in the Golden Triangle Area in Montana this October to see firsthand how grizzly bear populations have rebounded and hear from landowners and wildlife partners on the importance of proper management.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. I look forward to hearing from you and continuing to partner on these issues.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator