

# MONTANA WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION



EST. 1883

September 28, 2018

Jeff Small  
Senior Advisor  
Congressman Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
20157 Rayburn HOB  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Small

I write on behalf of the membership of the Montana Wool Growers Association. The Association represents Montana's sheep and wool producers.

I write to alert you to the support of Montana's sheep industry for efforts to comprehensively reform the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

In spirit, the ESA is a worthy law. However, in substance, the Act is broken and outdated. As demonstrated by the recent court decision released by the federal district court of Montana prohibiting the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear population from being delisted. This decision was made in the face of the fact that the YNP grizzly bear population met recovery goals a decade ago.

Under any scientific measure, the Yellowstone area grizzly bear population satisfied ESA recovery goals a decade ago. Yet, the bear is still managed under the severe restrictions imposed by the ESA due to federal judges prohibiting management of the bear from being turned over to the State of Montana. Further, the Northern Continental Divide Grizzly Bear population has also reached recovery goals. However, like the Yellowstone area grizzly population, delisting of the Northern Continental Divide Grizzly population appears to be nowhere near coming to fruition thanks to self-styled environmental groups and timid federal bureaucrats imposing inconsistent and every changing delisting criteria on the population.

Montana's sheep industry has supported ESA reform three decades. The Act is losing credibility among those who have to live with and among endangered species every day – i.e. the agriculture producer.

As such, the membership of the MWGA supports the package of ESA bills being considered by the by the Committee on Natural Resources. The membership encourages the Committee to swift action to bring those bills to the House floor and, in turn, to get them on the President's desk for his signature into law.

Thank you for your time and attention to this missive and the request for action contained herein. Montana's sheep industry appreciates the attention being given to ESA reform and looks forward to modernization of the Act being carried out.

Sincerely,

/s/

James E. Brown, Esq.

Director of Public Affairs

MWGA

Cc: MWGA Board