

# OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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May 14, 2018

Matt Mead  
Governor, Wyoming  
Idelman Mansion  
2323 Carey Ave  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0010  
Via facsimile: 307 638 3909

Mark Anselmi  
President, Game and Fish Commission  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
5400 Bishop Blvd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82006  
Via email: [mark.anselmi@wyo.gov](mailto:mark.anselmi@wyo.gov)

Dear Governor Mead and Mark Anselmi

It has come to our attention that the State of Wyoming is on the cusp of approving a trophy hunt for the sacred grizzly bear in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. This is the first of the slaughters, aimed at reducing the already threatened grizzly bear population in the region. The Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) wishes to express its shock and grave concerns for this ill-conceived course of highly irresponsible action which will have a profound impact on Indigenous peoples on both sides of the border, many of which regard the grizzly bear as a sacred being. The UBCIC calls on the State of Wyoming and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and to immediately halt the trophy hunting of grizzly bears.

The UBCIC represents over half of the 203 First Nations in British Columbia, Canada. Our mandate is to work towards the implementation, exercise and recognition of our inherent Title, Rights and Treaty Rights and to protect our Lands and Waters, through the exercise and implementation of our own laws and jurisdiction. The UBCIC works collectively amongst Indigenous Nations in BC and acts as an advocacy body to provide a cohesive voice (regionally, nationally and internally) in support of Indigenous Nations and communities, and to promote and protect each Nation's exercise of Sovereignty within their traditional territories. The UBCIC is mandated by Resolution 2011-55, "Support for Qat'muk Declaration and Opposition to the Proposed Jumbo Glacier Report" and Resolution 2013-37, "Support for Bears

Forever Campaign” which direct the UBCIC to advocate for the protection of grizzly bears from trophy hunting and to protect the territories on which they live.

Both Canada and the United States have clear duties in upholding their international human rights commitments, including under the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. The UN Declaration affirms:

**Article 25:** Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

**Article 26:**

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
3. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

The catalog of racism tribal people have endured at the hands of Wyoming officials, spokesmen, and advocates throughout the grizzly delisting process cannot continue to be overlooked. These abuses include but are not limited to: tribal leaders being removed from the floor while speaking; vile comments by a county commissioner recorded by the regional NBC news station at a grizzly bear meeting in Cody, WY; racist comments about Manifest Destiny on regional newspaper sites; and a stream of falsehoods and misrepresentations by Wyoming officials.

We stand with our Indigenous brothers and sisters as they assert their inherent rights to protect the grizzly bear. We call on you to ensure that Indigenous rights are respected and that there be an immediate halt to the trophy hunt of grizzly bears.

**On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS**



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip  
President



Chief Robert Chamberlin  
Vice-President



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson  
Secretary-Treasurer

CC: Chief Grier - Chief of the Piikani Nation and President of the Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs.  
Executive Director William Snell - Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council.  
Executive Director Gay Kingman - Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association.  
Chief Councilor Brandon Sazue - Global Indigenous Council.  
Chairman Roy Brown - Northern Arapaho Tribe.  
Chairman Clint Wagon - Eastern Shoshone Tribe.