

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0001

Wyoming support for delisting the grizzly bear.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Winter, Hunt, Kirkbride,
Paxton, Salazar and Sommers and Senator(s)
Agar, Bebout, Boner and Driskill

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting the swift delisting under the
2 Endangered Species Act of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem
3 grizzly bear population; requesting a return of the species
4 management to local control; and requesting full federal
5 funding of species management until delisting occurs.

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7 WHEREAS, the grizzly bear population in the Greater
8 Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) has been recovered for more than
9 a decade; and

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11 WHEREAS, it is estimated that seven hundred (700) grizzly
12 bears roam the GYE, up from one hundred thirty-six (136) in
13 1975; and

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15 WHEREAS, the GYE grizzly bear population recovery and
16 conservation success can be directly attributed to the

1 support and efforts of the state of Wyoming and its citizens;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, in June 2017, the United States Secretary of the
5 Interior confirmed that the GYE grizzly bear population was
6 recovered and announced that the overall management should be
7 returned to the states and tribes as applicable; and

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9 WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service by rule
10 delisted the GYE grizzly bear under the Endangered Species
11 Act effective July 31, 2017; and

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13 WHEREAS, in September 2018, the United States District Court
14 for the District of Montana vacated the June 2017 Final Rule
15 of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service delisting the
16 GYE grizzly bear population; and

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18 WHEREAS, the listing of the recovered population of GYE
19 grizzly bears causes great burden and expense to the state of
20 Wyoming; and

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22 WHEREAS, the state of Wyoming and Wyoming sportsmen combined
23 have, on average, contributed more than two million dollars

1 (\$2,000,000.00) annually since 2009 to monitor, research and
2 manage grizzly bears; and

3

4 WHEREAS, the state of Wyoming, on average, spent more than
5 one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) annually from 1990 to
6 2009 to monitor, research and manage grizzly bears; and

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8 WHEREAS, the state of Wyoming has spent more than forty-five
9 million dollars (\$45,000,000.00) from 1990 until 2018 on the
10 management of grizzly bears; and

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12 WHEREAS, the state of Wyoming has received approximately one
13 million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in federal funding related to
14 grizzly bear management since 2009; and

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16 WHEREAS, the state of Wyoming has spent approximately
17 nineteen million six hundred thousand dollars
18 (\$19,600,000.00) on grizzly bear management since 2009; and

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20 WHEREAS, in 2016 Wyoming citizens lost approximately one
21 hundred thirty-six (136) calves, yearlings and cows to
22 grizzly bears. Additionally, twenty-four (24) lambs, five (5)
23 ewes, forty-six (46) chickens, thirteen (13) turkeys, three

1 (3) pigs, three (3) ducks and one (1) dog were killed by
2 grizzly bears; and

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4 WHEREAS, in 2016 the state of Wyoming paid approximately four
5 hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$455,000.00) for damage
6 related to grizzly bears; and

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8 WHEREAS, in 2017 Wyoming citizens lost approximately one
9 hundred fifteen (115) calves, yearlings, cows and a bull to
10 grizzly bears. Additionally, fifteen (15) lambs, eight (8)
11 ewes, two (2) goats, and seventy-eight (78) chickens were
12 killed by grizzly bears; and

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14 WHEREAS, in 2017 the state of Wyoming paid approximately two
15 hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$270,000.00) for damage
16 related to grizzly bears; and

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18 WHEREAS, in 2018 Wyoming citizens lost approximately one
19 hundred forty-two (142) calves, yearlings and cows to grizzly
20 bears; and

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1 WHEREAS, in 2018 the state of Wyoming paid approximately three
2 hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$380,000.00) for damage
3 related to grizzly bears; and

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5 WHEREAS, in 2018 three (3) people were injured in grizzly
6 bear attacks; and

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8 WHEREAS, in 2018, a hunting guide was killed by a grizzly
9 bear at the site of an elk harvest; and

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11 WHEREAS, in 2018 Wyoming sportsmen indicated an overall
12 increase in interactions with grizzly bears; and

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14 WHEREAS, since 2009, thirty-one (31) people have been injured
15 by grizzly bears; and

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17 WHEREAS, since 2009 three (3) people have been killed by
18 grizzly bears in the state of Wyoming; and

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20 WHEREAS, since 2009 sixty-eight (68) grizzly bears have been
21 removed due to livestock related conflicts; and

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1 WHEREAS, since 2009, eighty (80) grizzly bears have been
2 removed for reasons such as human safety or property damage;
3 and

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5 WHEREAS, in 2017 the Wyoming game and fish department captured
6 thirty (30) grizzly bears to prevent or resolve conflicts. Of
7 these, in twelve (12) instances, grizzly bears were killing
8 livestock, six (6) were damaging fruit trees, pet eating food
9 or livestock food, and eleven (11) were frequenting developed
10 sites or livestock production areas; and

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12 WHEREAS, after the 2017 delisting of the GYE grizzly bear the
13 state of Wyoming received more than seven thousand (7,000)
14 applications for a grizzly bear hunting license; and

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16 WHEREAS, the state of Wyoming granted only twelve (12)
17 licenses from the seven thousand (7,000) applicants; and

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19 WHEREAS, the ruling of the United States District Court for
20 the District of Montana forced the state of Wyoming to cancel
21 the carefully planned and much anticipated grizzly bear hunt
22 that would have positively contributed to the state's
23 management of the GYE grizzly bear population; and

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2 WHEREAS, the state of Wyoming bears the cost of grizzly bear
3 management but again lacks any authority to make decisions
4 related to management, conflict resolution or citizen safety
5 related to grizzly bears.

6

7 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*
8 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

9

10 **Section 1.** That the Wyoming legislature respectfully
11 requests congressional action to swiftly delist the GYE
12 grizzly bear population to return the management of this
13 recovered species to state and tribal control as provided by
14 the Endangered Species Act.

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16 **Section 2.** That pending the delisting of the GYE
17 grizzly bear population, the Wyoming legislature requests
18 that the federal government fully fund the cost of management
19 of the species.

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21 **Section 3.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
22 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the
23 United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker

1 of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress,
2 the United States Secretary of the Interior, the United States
3 Fish and Wildlife Service and to the Wyoming Congressional
4 Delegation.

5

(END)