



Wyoming State Forestry Division



*Wyoming State Forestry Division
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*Matthew H. Mead
Governor*

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State Forester*

June 8th, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso, MD
Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso,

On behalf of the Wyoming State Forestry Division (WSFD), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback regarding the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018. WSFD has been actively working with federal, state, and local partners for nearly 60 years throughout Wyoming. Updating the Endangered Species Act (ESA) using science and common sense has the ability to provide the needed endpoint for the successful recovery of many species and better certainty for those engaged in land management decisions.

There are several drafted amendments to the ESA that appear to level the playing field between the Federal Government and the States' that are impacted. Overall we support the increased involvement of the States in working with the Secretary of the Interior in administrating the process through Recovery Teams. Careful coordination with effected States can ensure a process is created for those Recovery Teams to arrive effective guidance from both sides while not creating an economic burden on States' resources in doing so.

Additionally, we support State empowerment regarding the ESA process. This can include earlier notification on potential petitions and listing information, consultation with impacted states regarding litigation and settlements, and modified language for general state consultation regarding ESA issues.

Allowing for greater weight in States' information also allows for better guidance from those most familiar with what is actually happening on the ground and the resulting issues that may arise. It has been our experience that we can learn a lot about an issue by consulting with local landowners and land managers first before taking action. This would be a tremendous improvement to the current ESA process.

Again, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018. By revising the ESA, an opportunity exists to allow more participation by the States' that can potentially create better certainty for those dealing with

threatened and endangered species on the ground level. Certainty, combined with the right science and economic sense, provides the right elements for an effective process that can reduce the high price of “doing business” with threatened and endangered species. These items I feel can make great strides realigning an ESA that works for the species it was intended for. For all of these reasons, we support the “Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018”, and would recommend you moving the proposal forward.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions or follow up on the ESA Amendments. I think things are moving in a positive direction.

Sincerely,



Bill Crapser