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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Culture Sector

H.E. Mr David Killion
Ambassador
Permanent Delegation of the United
States of America to UNESCO
U.S. Mission to UNESCO
American Embassy
18, avenue Gabriel
75008 Paris

31 May 2011

Ref.: WHC/74/3937/US/PA/PT

Subject: **Reactive monitoring mission to the World Heritage property
"Yellowstone National Park"**

Dear Ambassador,

I am writing to you concerning the Reactive Monitoring Mission to the World Heritage property "Yellowstone National Park" as requested by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision 32 COM 7B.29.

I would like to confirm the dates of 19 to 23 September 2011 discussed with the U.S. National Park Service. The mission will be carried out jointly by Dr Paul Dingwall for IUCN and myself for the World Heritage Centre.

Please find enclosed the Terms of Reference for the joint mission. I would appreciate receiving the detailed planning for the mission as well as the relevant contact details at your earliest convenience.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and cooperation in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Please accept, dear Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Kishore Rao
Director
World Heritage Centre

Encl.

cc: U.S. National Commission for UNESCO
U.S. National Park Service
IUCN

Terms of Reference

Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the World Heritage property "Yellowstone National Park" United States of America

19-23 September 2011

Based on Decision **32 COM 7B.29** (see Annex) of the World Heritage Committee concerning the state of conservation of the World Heritage property "Yellowstone National Park", inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1978, and taking into consideration the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* the mission shall:

1. Assess the state of conservation of this property and the factors affecting its Outstanding Universal Value, with particular regard to the threats identified in Decision **32 COM 7B.29**, Decision **34 COM 7B.28** and the 2010 state of conservation report. This includes the assessment of the progress made in
 - the implementation of the New World Mining District Response and Restoration project, restoring the roads within the guidelines of the National Environment Policy Act, and in implementing water quality improvement measures;
 - adaptive management changes under the Interagency Bison Management Plan;
 - securing bison migration routes involving local ranchers;
 - the implementation of the recommendations of the scientific expert panel concerning the restoration of the property's native cut-throat trout population;
 - assessing the risk to grizzly bears from declining whitebark pine and investigating the severity of bark pine beetle infestation and the role of changing temperatures;
 - the improvement of the connectivity of Yellowstone's grizzly bears population with the larger population of bears in the region under consideration of the need to further mitigate human-bear conflict;
 - analysing how the recent delisting of wolves as a protected species in Idaho and Montana and hunting of wolves in neighbouring public and private land may impact the wolf population within the property;
 - the implementation of a sustainability programme to reduce the impacts of visitation and parks operations to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property can be transmitted to future generations;
 - the continued assessment of visitor numbers and the effects of visitor use on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
 - the continued assessment of winter visitation and the effects from snowmobiles;
 - understanding the ecological role that the surrounding lands play in maintaining the property's values, and a long-term vision and the

development of an action plan for integrated management of the property and its surrounding areas;

2. On the basis of the findings, provide to the World Heritage Centre a mission report by **31 October 2011** at the latest, in electronic form (not exceeding 10 pages; according to the enclosed format, including an executive summary and recommendations taking into account, the provisions in the *Operational Guidelines* in Chapter IV concerning reactive monitoring (paragraphs 169-176) to be reviewed by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012.

**Decision – 32 COM 7B.29
Yellowstone National Park (United States of America) (N 28)**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.28**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Acknowledges progress in implementing the New World Mining District Response and Restoration project, restoring the roads within the guidelines of the National Environment Policy Act, and in implementing water quality improvement measures;
4. Requests the State Party to continue to address the threats identified in this and previous reports in particular:
 - a. accelerate the adaptive management changes under the Bison management plan, including:
 - i. carry out a risk analysis for disease transmission from bison to cattle and include other ungulates by including a review of scientific knowledge on disease transmission, bison behaviour and genetics, and seasonal factors;
 - ii. consider changing cattle management practices so that bison can migrate naturally, and;
 - iii. promote and enhance stakeholders' participation and accountability and transparency on the implementation of this plan.
 - b. increase efforts to understand the causes for the slow recovery of the cutthroat trout;
 - i. carry out a scientific review of the programme to remove the lake trout invasive species;
 - ii. investigate the effects of reduced lake levels and drought on the cutthroat trout and consider the potential role of climate change in further affecting the recovery of this species;
 - c. assess the risk to grizzly bears from declining whitebark pine and investigate the severity of bark pine beetle infestation and the role of changing temperatures;
5. Notes the continued pressures from high visitor use and calls on the State Party to:
 - a. implement a sustainability programme to reduce the impacts of visitation and parks operations to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property can be transmitted to future generations;
 - b. continue assessing visitor numbers and the effects of visitor use on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
 - c. continue assessing winter visitation and the effects from snowmobiles;
6. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission in 2011 to review progress in implementing the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress made in addressing the different issues above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.