



April 2, 2012

Steve Guertin, Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Denver Federal Center
P.O. Box 25486
Denver, CO 80225-0486
Stephen_Guertin@fws.gov

John Wessels
Regional Director
National Park Service
12795 Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO
80225
john_wessels@nps.gov

Dear Sirs:

Re: Y2Y Request to join the GNLCC Steering Committee

The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) writes to request membership on the GNLCC Steering Committee. The interests of Y2Y and the GNLCC are very closely aligned, and we believe that Y2Y's participation will support progress towards our common vision for large landscape conservation.

The Yellowstone to Yukon region stretches over 460,000 square miles, and includes portions of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Yukon. The southern two-thirds of the Yellowstone to Yukon region almost perfectly align with the geography of the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

Y2Y's mission is to "maintain and restore the unique natural heritage of the Yellowstone to Yukon region." Conceived almost twenty years ago, Y2Y is dedicated to maintaining the ecological integrity of the attributes that make the West an exceptional place to live, work and raise families: spectacular landscapes, abundant clean water, protected areas, accessible public lands, and healthy fish and wildlife populations. We envision that the majority of the Yellowstone to Yukon area will be managed for multiple uses, while ensuring the preservation of adequate wildlife habitat and connectivity. We support the coordination of the many agencies, organizations and private land owners having shared interests in the West's conservation. For these reasons, we believe Y2Y can be a supportive and constructive member working towards our collective landscape vision for the Great Northern LCC.

Y2Y can contribute to the capacity of the GNLCC. We have ten full-time staff and another five part-time contractors working on program delivery. Over the years, we have amassed a significant body of science and knowledge about the landscape encompassed by the GNLCC, which may be of use to GNLCC partners. Y2Y works actively with over 110 partners, including government agencies, conservation organizations, scientists, authors, indigenous communities, businesses, land conservancies, photographers, zoos, art galleries, museums and others. Through Y2Y, the GNLCC will have access to a diverse network of like-minded partners.

Y2Y increasingly is being acknowledged as an international model for large landscape conservation. We would be very pleased to join the distinguished members of the GNLCC Steering Committee.

I would like to nominate Wendy Francis, Y2Y's Program Director, to represent Y2Y on the GNLCC. Rebecca Lloyd, Y2Y's U.S. Science and Action Director, would serve as her alternate.

If we are invited to join the GNLCC Steering Committee we would, of course, agree to be bound by any governing documents and policies.

Sincerely,



Rob Buffler
Executive Director

cc: Ron Bjorge, Director of Wildlife, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Bill Dolan, Land and Resource Management Coordinator, Alberta Parks Division
Michael Whitfield, Coordinator, Heart of the Rockies Initiative