

March 24, 2015

Superintendent
No. Cascades National Park Service Complex
8710 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 9872874

Gentlemen:

This recent push to bring Grizzly bears into north central and north east Washington is insane! We didn't want wolves – we got wolves and all the associated problems.

Both of these animals love to eat meat – 4 legged or 2 legged, furry, feathered or with scales. You folks are doing your best to destroy the livelihood of many law abiding, tax paying, very hard working citizens. They have as much a right to make a living as you.

Trails have been developed in the national forests for the enjoyment of all. Bringing in bears will cause closure of many of these areas. These are our parks, paid for by the people and enjoyed by the people.

You are spending millions of dollars on this project, yet you haven't asked the people that live here what they think. Do you want grizzly bears in the neighborhood where your children play, or where you like to hike and camp? Try putting yourselves in our place, try thinking about your neighbors, not yourselves.

Spend some time in prayer, loving your neighbors.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

Carlton, WA [Redacted]

Date: March 23, 2015

Subject: Proposed Grizzly Bear Augmentation
North Cascades National Park

To: Superintendent
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA. 98284

Dear Sirs,

I understand that the Park Service is in the Public Scoping Process for an EIS dealing with Proposed Grizzly Bear Augmentation in the North Cascades. **I am strongly opposed to this proposal for a number of reasons.**

From 1973 through 1990, I was employed by the Gallatin National Forest which bordered Yellowstone National Park to the North. During the field season, I spent most of the time mapping the National Forest. I had quite a few encounters with Grizzly Bears and experienced more than one false charge. And I think I have a fairly good idea of habitat requirements for the Bear.

A lot has changed since Grizzlies once occupied habitats in the North Cascades. In the early days there were few recreationist taking advantage of remote areas of the North Cascades. However, today back country use is extremely high by all kinds of novice and skilled backpackers.

Due to the Glacial History of the North Cascades, Glacial Valley Bottoms and Cirque Basins would provide much of the potential foraging areas for the Bear. Any Grizzly Bear Augmentation will superimpose Grizzlies in the existing travel corridors or destination areas for recreationist and hence, eventual Bear/People conflict.

Any augmentation process will likely rely on Bear populations that have been protected by years, or worse Problem Bears. At any rate, many Bears have been habituated and typically do not have a healthy fear of people, yet another source of Bear/People conflict.

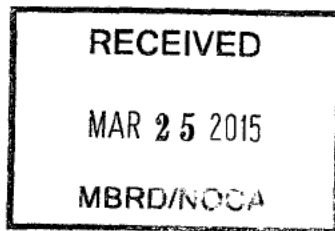
In order to achieve a sustainable Bear population into the future, will require a very active augmentation process in a number of locations within the North Cascades. During the augmentation process, the potential Bear/People conflicts will be high.

I would like to be included in your mailing list and kept apprised of your EIS process concerning the Proposal to Augment Grizzly Bears in the North Cascades.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

3/16/2015



[Type the sender name]

[Type the sender company name]

Superintendent
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA. 98284

An endorsement:
I, [redacted], strongly
endorse the following letter
by [redacted]

Tacoma, Wa [redacted]

To whom it may concern;

After reading the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan with supplements dated 6-23-1997, I have these concerns and views. As an adult with 50+ years of hiking, hunting and enjoying the Okanogan County region from the Canadian border south to Wenatchee. I feel the Recovery Plan is far from usable at this time. The plans own statements of lack of information for the ecosystem in itself shows more time is needed before reasonable judgements are made.

In the North Cascades the plan shows from the stats listed that Grizzly bears that are claimed to be here have not grown in numbers. Why then if the bears have not been killed off since the listed last killing of 1967 there are not more? After a 48 year time period, the normal reproduction rate should show considerable more. The answer is habitat and or food. The research from the Methow Valley shows trappers only listed fur from Black bears. These records are from 1880's.

The plan lists 200-400 bears to be possibly introduced in the North Cascades. We know bears reach out to the easiest food source. The current cattle ranchers, sheep herders, horse breeders and small communities will be greatly affected. The Recovery plan states possible changes, reduce or even stop cattle ranchers, timber harvests, mining, recreation, water development and energy development etc. as stated in NC132 must not be considered at all costs. The Methow Valley has no commercial business employing vast amounts of people. We only have tourists, hundreds of vacation homes with families and a farming community which is cattle driven. Any one of these reduced or removed would greatly affect the economy. Okanogan county already has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state. Why does the Recovery plan not have a plan for losses due to the Grizzly bear in anyone of the areas listed in NC132?

How does the U.S. Fish & Wildlife plan to address the lack of funds listed in the Washington State RCW 77.12.035. No funds mean NO help from any state agency. The RCW states. The commission shall protect Grizzly bears and develop management programs on publicly owned lands that will encourage the natural regeneration of Grizzly bears in areas with suitable habitat. Grizzly bears shall not be transplanted or introduced into the state. Only Grizzly bears that are native to Washington state may be utilized by the department for management programs. The department is directed to fully participate in all discussions and negotiations with the federal and state agencies

...

relating to the grizzly bear management and shall fully communicate, support and implement the policies of this section.

Safety is the most critical aspect and seems to be missing in the recovery plan. Alaska state with the largest amount of Grizzly bears has allowed residents and tourists opportunity to get close by using their fish laden rivers knowing that too close is a health hazard. Washington State has no fish in rivers to make these opportunities to experience Grizzly bears in their natural habitat. What would be used instead? With populations growing ever so slightly in Methow Valley and surrounding counties, why does the recovery plan even state a demographic and genetic RISK? There cannot be any reason for this plan to go forward if humans are at risk!

Given the lack of information stated in this recovery plan, recovery of loss of moneys on the possible reintroduction, safety issues of the communities not addressed, I advise a NO ACTION alternative (status quo).

I do request all information on further plans or adjustments to the current recovery plan be forwarded to my e-mail,

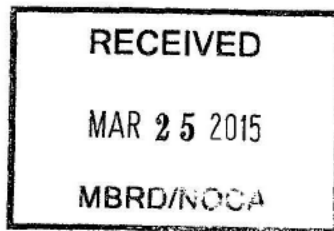
Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

endorsement by

[Redacted signature]

3/16/2015



[Type the sender name]

[Type the sender company name]

Superintendent
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA. 98284

An endorsement:
I, [redacted] strongly
endorse the following letter
by [redacted]

[redacted]
Twisp, Wa [redacted]
[redacted]

To whom it may concern;

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Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

endorsement by

[Redacted Endorsement]

March 24, 2015

Superintendent's Office
 North Cascades National Park Service Complex
 810 SR 20

Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Regards: Grizzly Bears Restoration in
 North Cascades

Attention: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

To whom it may concern;

This opportunity for public involvement in the EIS is a large area for people to voice their concern about. Grizzly that already exists in our National Parks? If you need more bears let them be self producing. The public is not that excited about transporting grizzlies into an area that is hard to adventure into as grizzly bears can destroy trees and other animals. People enjoy seeing various other animals and birds.

Leave it to Nature to produce Grizzly Bears. Nature seems to be doing a good job so far, along with our fish and wildlife departments.

Thank you for listening

March 17, 2015

Superintendent's Office
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan.

I wholeheartedly support recovery of a sustainable population of grizzly bears in the North Cascades.

I attended the presentation on the "Ghost Bears: Studying Grizzly and Black Bears in Washington's North Cascades Ecosystem" at the Wenatchee Regional Library on January 8, and participated in the "scoping" open house (held in Cle Elum on March 9) as a supporter of grizzly bear restoration.

I always enjoy visiting our parks, forests, mountains, and wildlife areas. Too many years have passed not realizing that the grizzly bear population has almost disappeared from the North Cascades ecosystem.

Important to the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan will be the recovery actions where there are opportunities for the success of maintaining the grizzly bear population at a sustainable level. The restoration plan needs to be earnestly and honestly reviewed in detail; looking at what is least evasive for the grizzly bears and for humans.

I am hoping the recovery actions move forward and the goals of the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan will return the grizzly bears back to the wild federal lands which remain in the state of Washington and our beautiful Pacific Northwest.

Please put me on your stakeholders' list for the North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Chelan, WA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

I haven't any real suggestions as to what you can do to perpetuate the lives of the SIX remaining grizzly bears in the Pacific NW — "except" to make it VERY known that any killing of, or harm to, these bears is a very SEVERE crime and the guilty parties will be SEVERELY dealt with! Since they don't mate but every 3 years, they only very slowly increase, right? Can more be brought from other areas? Relocated? First, we must protect the ones that are there. Second, add more to the population. And of course, "contributing to the restoration of biodiversity of the ecosystem" is a given — that should always be done... enormous job that it is!! Can you somehow 'protect' the area where the present 6 are? Are they near homes, towns, mankind? Or out in the "wild", far from mankind? It'd be good if they were!! Better chance for survival!!

Again — all I can think of to 'help' them is to make it VERY well known that harming them in any manner is a serious, capital crime and wrong-doers that way will be severely punished. That — and leave them alone. To breed and increase as they will!!

Wish I could be of more help! Both my wife and I are serious environmentalists and wish the best for ~~the~~ Mother Nature and "all" of God's creatures!!

Good luck...

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Bellingham, Wa. _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

(neither — just 'me' (!))

Mar. 11, 2015

Dear Superintendent,

I am writing to weigh in on the Grizzly Bear Restoration issue. We live in the Mt. Baker foothills on a very peaceful tree farm. My husband is the fifth generation of his family living here. We frequently have educational tours of our land and one consistent piece of feedback we get is how serene and peaceful it is here. I have worked a high stress job for years and have always been able to de-stress by meditating in nature, and walking and hiking our little piece of paradise. All that would change if we had to be constantly on guard for grizzly bears.

Also, I have my doubts that grizzly bears were ever in this area to begin with. I know most environmentalists really want to believe they were but I have seen no hard data to support this belief. Why not let nature take its course and if they are meant to be here it will eventually happen. Either way, we can't go back and make the country as perfect as it was before man arrived, which often seems to be the hidden agenda of many environmentalists in our area. It often feels that salmon and grizzly bears are a priority over people who actually work on and live on the land. Shouldn't our safety and peace of mind be a priority, too?

I am strongly opposed to this restoration issue. I hope you will give serious thought to my comments and I thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Washington State Senate

Senator Linda Evans Parlette

Senate Majority Caucus Chair
12th Legislative District

Olympia Office:
305 Legislative Building
PO Box 40412
Olympia, WA 98504-4012
Phone: (360) 786-7622
Fax: (360) 786-1189

District Office:
625 Okanogan, Suite 301
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Phone: (509) 663-9702
E-mail: Linda.Parlette@leg.wa.gov
Hotline: 1-800-562-6000

March 26, 2015

Superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

I accidentally omitted Representative Joel Kretz in my March 18, 2015 letter. Please replace that letter with this March 26, 2015 letter

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature of Linda Evans Parlette in black ink.

Senator Linda Evans Parlette
12th Legislative District



Washington State Legislature

March 26, 2015

Superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich,
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

RE: Comment Period for Grizzly Bears in the North Cascade National Park

Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

We urge you to collaborate with the Washington State Legislature, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and local communities as you plan for grizzly bear restoration in the North Cascades. These planning efforts should be consistent with Washington's previously established statutory policy of natural grizzly bear recovery. We are opposed to moving grizzly bears into the state.

The National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have opened up a public comment period seeking input on the purpose, need, objectives, potential alternatives, and other issues associated with grizzly bear restoration in the North Cascades.

The federal agencies indicate that the planning process will evaluate various alternative courses of action, including taking no action and active restoration alternatives such as moving grizzly bears into the portion of the North Cascades within Washington's borders.

Although we are avid supporters of wildlife and all forms of wildlife-oriented recreation, we have deep concerns about the potential scope of the planning process. Most alarming is the federal agencies' plan to consider bringing grizzly bears to Washington.

First, the Legislature has an established state policy on grizzly bear restoration, (RCW 77.12.035, SSB 5106 (1995)) which states that "[g]rizzly bears shall not be transplanted or introduced into the state." Instead, the Legislature calls for the Department of Fish and Wildlife to:

- Manage programs on publicly owned lands to encourage the natural regeneration of grizzly bears in areas with suitable habitat;
- Use only grizzly bears native to Washington in management efforts; and

- Participate in discussions and negotiations with federal and state agencies relating to grizzly bear management, and to communicate, support, and implement the statutory policy.

The state's policy towards natural grizzly bear restoration is clear. We urge you to respect Washington's position as the planning process moves forward.

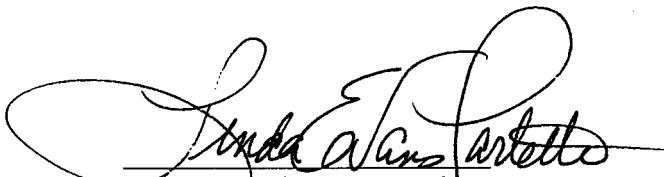
Second, deliberate movement of grizzly bears into the state is the wrong choice for Washington. We are currently experiencing a rapid expansion of wolf populations. As a result, the state is dealing with difficult issues such as livestock damage, deer and elk impacts, and social tolerance in areas with significant wolf numbers. The state needs support from the federal government as it deals with these challenges, not added complications from an introduced predator population.

In order to assist Washington, the federal agencies should focus their time and resources elsewhere. Efforts are underway at the state level, through both proposed legislation and an executive order, to promote outdoor recreation opportunities in the state. Other specific recreational projects are too numerous to count, with just one relevant example being the longstanding effort to rebuild the upper Stehekin Valley Road and enhance public access to North Cascades National Park. We need the federal government's assistance developing recreational and economic opportunities, not new wildlife management challenges.

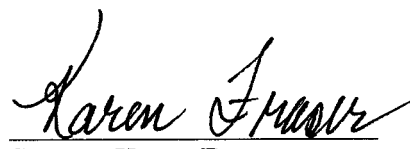
We urge you to respect Washington's statutory grizzly bear management policy, and to conduct your planning in coordination with the Legislature, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and local communities. **Simply put, moving grizzly bears into the state is not an acceptable alternative.**

Please contact Senator Parlette's office with any further questions or comments. She will share with all others who have signed onto this letter.


Sincerely,



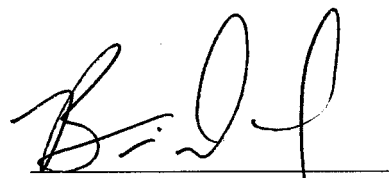
Senator Linda Evans Parlette
12th Legislative District



Senator Karen Fraser
22nd Legislative District



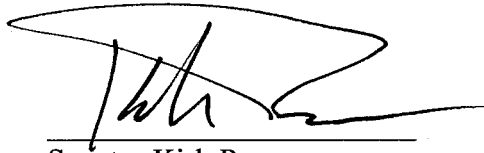
Senator Pam Roach
31st Legislative District



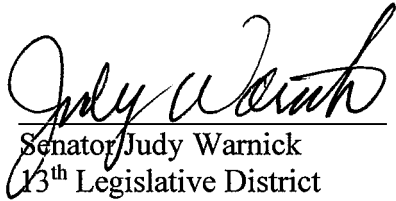
Senator Brian Dansel
7th Legislative District



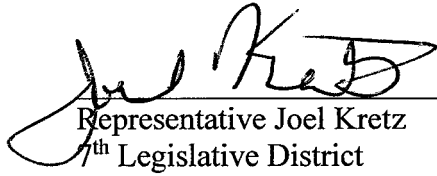
Senator Mike Padden
4th Legislative District



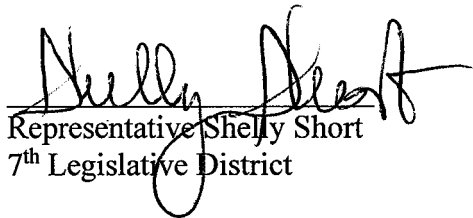
Senator Kirk Pearson
39th Legislative District



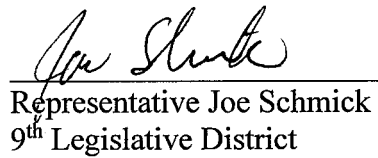
Senator Judy Warnick
13th Legislative District



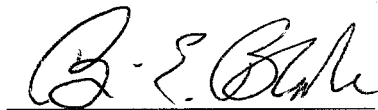
Representative Joel Kretz
7th Legislative District



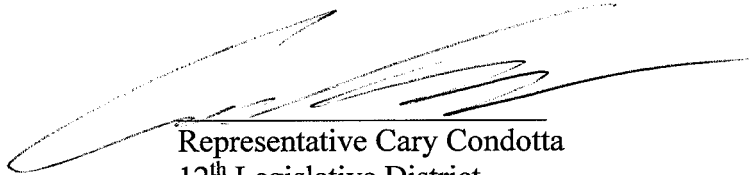
Representative Shelly Short
7th Legislative District



Representative Joe Schmick
9th Legislative District



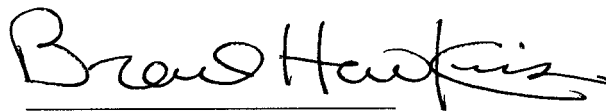
Representative Brian Blake
19th Legislative District



Representative Cary Condotta
12th Legislative District



Representative Tom Dent
13th Legislative District



Representative Brad Hawkins
12th Legislative District

This North Cascades area is historic home to grizzly bears and the is land mass, water, vegetation and a variety of fish and animals for the omnivores to eat.

The greater the biodiversity, the healthier the ecosystem. This is our common opportunity to restore these great animals to these magnificent mountains and public lands

Your Name: [REDACTED]

Mailing or email address: [REDACTED]

Lynden WA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Organization (if applicable):

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Carlton Wa [REDACTED]

Mar 12, 2015

Grizzly Bear Comments

I am very much opposed to transplanting Grizzly Bears in our North Cascades area.

as of now, I feel it is safe to recreate in the cascades without that worry of a Grizzly.

as we hear on the media that there are trouble (bad) bears that have to be moved - NOT HERE!




Also, millions of dollars (of our taxpayers money) has been spent by the different PuD & Bonneville Power Companies to supplement the salmon and steel head fish in our rivers & their tributaries — any grizzlies would be a detriment to those "expensive" fish trying to survive.

Respectfully

Do not re-introduce

Grizzlies — they are not here for a reason.

I strongly support the recovery of the North Cascades grizzly bear. If we continue on the path of human encroachment on wildlife habitat, many of our beloved species will be come extinct. Many humans are motivated simply by greed or inconvenience and fail to recognize the consequences of losing our beautiful wildlife and their habitat. Grizzly bears have been a part of the Pacific Northwest landscape for thousands of years. We have an ethical and legal obligation to restore this native species.

Your Name: Mailing or email address:  Sequim WA 

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Yes! I want to bring back the grizzlies to the Pacific Northwest. They have been part of the PNW for thousands of years.

We have an ethical and legal obligation to restore the native species.

Bring Them Back!!!

Your Name: [REDACTED]

Mailing or email address: [REDACTED]

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

March 12, 2015



Twisp, Wash. 98856

Superintendents Office
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, Washington 98284

To whomever it may concern;

As I have read and understand the United States Federal Agencies are planning to reintroduce grizzled bears to the North Cascades of Washington State. I am a resident of Twisp, Washington which is located in the North Cascades. I have a few concerns about this reintroduction plan.

At one time I would have been in favor of bringing back threatened or endangered species. Since several species in our valley have been allowed to return or were reintroduced the local natural resource users have suffered tremendously. In the early 80's the spotted owl brought a multitude of lost jobs, higher lumber prices, economic revenue loss to the community and restrictions on private property timber harvests. Sea going fish were next to do severe harm to agriculture. We have been losing water rights by leaps and bounds. Many landowners can no longer get enough water to irrigate their fields. My yearly irrigation fees more than doubled just to pay a full time attorney to preserve the water rights we have. Our irrigation ditch had 128 CFs in the 70's and have lost all but 11cfs which is not enough to provide water to everyone on the ditch. The remaining water users now have to absorb the full expense of maintaining the system. I can no longer take my grandkids to the river and catch some fish for supper. The regulations on fishing in the river are so severe that only the elite group of fishing outfitters dare to drop a line in the water for fear of being ticketed. We've all had to install fish screens and water saving irrigation systems. The fish populations were brought back with hatcheries but this brought a potential loss of federal money so a new species was declared separating hatchery fish from wild fish. The money and regulations are now on a secure course to never end. The latest species we've had to endure more restrictions on are the wolves. The livestock producers are having to sacrifice a percentage of their herd for the good of the wolf. Grazing leases are restricted from areas having wolf dens. Some leases are removed from grazing where wolf numbers are high. Cattle have to be brought much closer to the ranch house for calving to prevent wolves killing calves. Only a small percentage of depredations are confirmed and compensated for. Injuries from wolves, aborted calves and weight loss due to harassment have no compensation whatsoever.

We have over the last approximately 8 years have been feeling the effects of reintroduced wolves. As a natural resource user and land owner I have personally felt the negative side of

wolf introduction. I fully expect the grizzly will bring similar or equal restrictions and regulations as the wolf. I raise cattle, cut timber and am a hunter. Any endangered species has extreme power to restrict my natural resource uses.

I would like to ask how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife plans to prevent restrictions of cattle grazing on private, State and Federal lands? Wolves and other endangered species have created havoc with cattle on federal land in other states. When US Fish and Wildlife recognizes this, the grazing leases are severely restricted or cancelled. Our area still has a few cattlemen that depend on federal grazing leases to run their cattle in the summer. A loss of grazing leases to these cattlemen will be their demise. An important part of our community will be lost forever if those leases are restricted, reduced or revoked. We still have a section of this community that depend on the renewable resources to provide a livelihood for themselves and others, that directly or indirectly benefit from their operation. If the local cattle producers lose their grazing lease from either state or federal land they will have no choice but to dissolve their own land. Some of these ranches have hundreds and even thousands of acres but not enough to graze the number of cattle it takes to make a living. The land they have is used for raising winter feed for the cattle and also containment for the cattle during the winter months. Any loss of grazing will destroy the whole operation. The rancher does not have a 401k so has to depend on an income his whole life. If he loses the income he has no choice but to sell his land to the highest bidder which of course are the developers. These large tracts of beautiful open space in our valley will inevitably be covered with houses thanks to the grizzly bear. Even if the grazing leases are not revoked the cattlemen will have increased losses of live cattle to the grizzly. At present the wolves are moving in and losses have increased even though Washington State Dept. Of Fish and Game do not confirm every kill. It appears about one in 8 animals is confirmed as a kill. Only if it's a confirmed kill will the Govt. Pay the cattleman for an animal. Only the cattlemen himself knows the loss due to his increase in annual average loss. Most of the losses to wolves go unconfirmed and the grizzly losses will undoubtedly be similar. Will the cattlemen be compensated for his loss of cattle? How about the increase of cattle lost but not confirmed? Will there be compensation for cows that are stressed and do not conceive due to being harassed? Will there be compensation for cattle injured due to being chased over cliffs, through fences and lacerated but do not die? If the lease is revoked due to grizzly bears will the lease be compensated for or given another lease in exchange for the lease revoked? Will the cattlemen be expected to provide deterrents similar to wolf deterrents? If so then who will pay for these deterrents? If the government pays for a range rider while the grizzly is recovering then who will pay for the range rider once the grizzly has been declared "Recovered"? Any deterrents will need to be continued for eternity so will the cattleman be expected to pay for this huge expense?

Another concern I'd like to have some answers to is restrictions on timber salvage and tree removal in general. The spotted owl nearly destroyed the US forest services ability to manage forests and once the science and time have proven that logging actually had practically no effect on the spotted owls recovery the restrictions have not been removed. Will there be restrictions on timber harvests in areas that are declared as grizzly bear recovery areas? If so, then will there be some undisputable scientific study to prove timber harvests negatively affect grizzly bears? Since grizzly bears are a berry and grub eater along with many other things it

would seem that timber harvest would have a positive affect on grizzly bear habitat. Will any timber harvests be restricted on private land as the spotted owl has done? Will compensation to private land owners, the US Forest service the State Dept. Of Natural Resources for loss of timber harvest income? Once the grizzly has been declared as recovered in the North Cascades will any restrictions that were put on the uses of the area be removed?

Another concern that I would like addressed is the loss of back country trail use by the outfitters and the general public. The wilderness areas have many hundreds of miles of trails used every day during the summer months by horses, hikers and bikers. Will some of these trails be off limits to the public for use? If so then will there be compensation to the professional outfitters charging people for guiding them on the trails. If there is mitigation instead of compensation then what will the mitigation be? If trails are not declared off limits to use then will there be restrictions on uses of the trails and what are those restrictions?

We also have a very high use of remote trails and roads in the winter months by cross country skiers and snowmobiles. Will some of those roads and trails be deemed off limits if the grizzly bears are in the area or it's declared a grizzly bear recovery zone? Since grizzlies hibernate in winter months what justification would there be to have any restrictions at all during the hibernation period?

Since the North Cascades has many more humans and humans uses than before humans came to this area the habitat available is much less than pre human occupation. Will humans be allowed to defend themselves when threatened or attacked by the bears? There should be clearly defined lines as to where the bears are protected and human use is extremely low. Allowing the bears to occupy even moderately human used areas will turn out to be very unpopular especially once a human gets attacked. Will the local citizens get to decide at any point if they are no longer supportive of these bears? If local support is not in favor of the grizzly then all protections should be removed and the bear will be treated the same as any other dangerous wildlife. If the bears do not cause harm to humans or human uses then they can live a peaceful life.

It appears the North Cascades seems to be a healthy ecosystem without reintroducing grizzly bears. What is the objective of bringing in a dangerous predator where humans have infiltrated? What population size was selected before the grizzly will be delisted in the North Cascades? What is this number and how was the number reached? The numbers chosen for wolf delisting was chosen long before any citizens groups had any input. The numbers chosen for wolves is appearing to be unreasonable yet the state government is holding fast to the ridiculous number. Washington state legislature is working on some legislation to force the wolf plan be revised. Will the grizzly plan be another ridiculous plan put together by a majority of environmental groups like the wolf plan was? If the grizzly is introduced to the North Cascades I strongly support a group be chosen that strictly represents the local citizens being affected. Local does not mean people living a hundred miles away that have no skin in the game. If a working group is formed from citizens the only logical group should be citizens living right here with the bears. I strongly recommend it be comprised of people that will be directly affected by grizzly bears in this area such as loggers, cattlemen, hunters, outfitters and back country hikers. The wolf working group is very heavily represented by environmental groups from the cities. These groups have no sympathy whatsoever for the resource users

and their losses. If your going to introduce a grizzly bear in my back yard, me and my neighbors need to be the people deciding how to manage this bear, not someone in a far off city living in a condo.

The problem with any endangered species is never the identified species but it is the restrictions and regulations that come with it. If a species will survive in an area it needs to adapt to the activities that are presently being done. If these activities interfere with the survival of this species then it's clear the habitat has changed and is no longer compatible. We can't move all the humans and their activities to the cities. The use of renewable natural resources is essential for the survivability of these small communities. Lumber, food and minerals are not found in the cities but the rural areas where the small towns are. We are essential to the survival of the human race so reintroducing a critter that was once possibly here needs to be willing to adapt to our activities removing the natural resources our country needs.

The food availability for grizzly bears in the North Cascades is questionable. Grizzlies need large amounts of protein such as fish, elk and carion. The North Cascades is fairly sparsely populated with deer in the summer and no elk east of the crest. The sea going fish seldom migrate past the lower elevations where humans are. Seldom are there huge runs of fish to supply these big carnivores appetites. Berries are fairly abundant on some years but again mostly where the bears and humans will overlap and conflict is inevitable. The only reliable source of protein for these bears will be cattle. This is certain to become a huge problem. The cattlemen will be forced to become criminals if they plan to survive. If the government will compensate for cattle losses and likely losses it could possibly work.

This grizzly bear is not near extinction but of course the ESA was changed so that it can be identified as " site specific endangered". This is nothing but a big smoke screen to convince the uninformed majority of voters to spend their tax and private dollars to save a species that is no where near needing saved. It appears again to be fed by money. If the public can be convinced of the plan then literally millions of dollars will be fed into the program and more federal workers can be employed. Our small communities will suffer tremendously with the introduction of grizzly bears. We were told that the spotted owl, the sea going fish and the wolf would be good for us and everyone. Our county is at 15% unemployment which is one of the highest in the nation and certainly the highest in Washington state due to the loss of jobs from spotted owls, loss of water for fish and livestock being killed by wolves. We do have retiring people moving in that bring their money with them but the younger local people still need jobs created by using our natural resources which we lose with every ESA species fed into our valley.

Sincerely [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
BS Wildlife Biology 1972 NMSU

I do not support man-made reintroduction of the grizzly bear to the Alpine Lakes wilderness.

However, I'm sure my opinion doesn't matter

But - since it is a done deal & MAN is interfering - there is a Man made rule that should be changed - that being ^{allowing} campfires in high elevation remote areas. The Native Americans had the ability to have campfires. The main reasoning is because if a camper can see bear sign then he has to be careful with the scent of food which may attract an unruly bear. Campfires are the best way to rid the smell of leftovers, or for example bacon grease from your breakfast.

I believe allowing nature and fire to be handled as the way it was 10,000 years ago needs to be considered. It shouldn't be impossible to see my logic. I also would not be happy to have the fire to dispose of the scent & not pollute my camp area & then have some ranger show up with a \$1,000 citation!

Your Name: [REDACTED]

Mailing or email address: [REDACTED]

Ellensburg WA [REDACTED]

Organization (if applicable):

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

[REDACTED]
Camden, ME [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

March 19, 2015

Superintendent,
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

*Re: This hard copy of my March 13, 2015 public **Comment ID# 955736-64266/1192** restores the punctuation and footnotes that were removed by the online program. The original on-line submission is also attached.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Enticing grizzly bears to return to Washington's North Cascades offers residents and the nation a win-win opportunity for the populations of both humans and grizzlies. If grizzly bears can *thrive* in this area, its ecology is most likely to be judged healthy for all other species, including ours.

Thrive is the key word: Grizzlies that can forage, den and reproduce successfully are very unlikely to bother humans despite our fear of their size and mythical ferocity.¹ Grizzlies are an indicator species—like canaries in coal mines—and an umbrella species. Their behavior benefits other species in the food chain.

The North Cascades is one of only five places in four of the contiguous Western states that is still un-developed and wild enough for grizzly bears to *thrive*, not just survive.

A grizzly population in the North Cascades could lessen the impact of natural food disasters in the other four grizzly territories—think pine

¹ One reason that grizzlies got the reputation for ferocity was that they were painfully wounded and thus enraged by the early explorers' puny guns.

bark beetle and cutthroat trout in Yellowstone, development and climate change everywhere and to the north, Canada's oil sands and gas production.

The timing is right for Washington to respect its history of grizzly-tolerant cultures and a grizzly-inhabited ecology. Cultural attitudes toward all wildlife² including grizzlies has changed. Research into normal grizzly behavior has made more communities "bear-aware". For instance, most people know that *grizzly bear attacks are not the norm!*

"Bears: Without Fear" dispels such fear-inspired myths around grizzlies and other bears and introduces us to their true natures and habits. Former Banff National Park Superintendent Kevin Van Tighem's experience with the human users of Canada's National Park system as well as its bears makes his advice on how to avoid or deal with awkward encounters particularly relevant.

Meticulous research on bear attacks over the years by Stephen Herrero documents the often avoidable circumstances in which bear attacks have occurred. Herrero's recently updated **"Bear Attacks: Their Cases and Avoidance"** is a classic. The clue to sharing the North Cascades with the occasional grizzly (*none have been sighted in the past few years*) is to avoid 'bad human/bear interactions'.

An under-appreciated element of Herrero's book is that most survivors of bear attacks admit—readily—that they missed an important clue regarding a bear in the area, or that they or their companions had omitted some element of normal safety practice in bear country.

² **According to The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service' "2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation" National Overview. Issued August 2012. (Preliminary)...Wildlife Watching Expenditures of \$55 billion surpassed Hunting Expenditures' of \$34 billion in 2011 (61% more Watcher expenditures) and Wildlife Watchers totaled 71.8 million compared to 13.7 million hunters (524% more watchers than hunters).

....(pages 6 & 7)

Because the North Cascades offer grizzlies foraging space in which their food preferences are plentiful, desperately hungry grizzlies are very unlikely in this area.

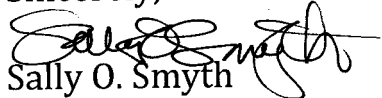
Starving bears are the ones that ranchers fear will overcome clear human/bear territorial boundaries and attack livestock. Grizzlies are acutely aware of territorial boundaries, whether set by humans or bears. See **"Smiling Bears: A Zookeeper Explores the Behavior and Emotional Life of Bears"** by Else Poulsen.

Many ranchers in the USA and Canada have chosen to co-exist with grizzly bears—they understand the bears' habits, view most as predictable and generally not inclined to bother humans or their livestock. The exceptions make the news, not the norms.

Canadian rancher Charlie Russell spent over ten years raising orphan grizzlies among their kind in a remote area of Russia known for its numerous grizzlies. His goal was to prove two simple points: grizzlies are predictable, and they are not inherently antagonistic to humans. Readers of his book routinely give 5 stars to *"Grizzly Heart: Living Without Fear among the Brown Bears of Kamchatka"*. The documentary of his experience: *"The Edge of Eden: Living with Grizzlies"* is convincing as well as stunning.

Persons who study grizzly bears are very familiar with the terrible history of the bears' persecution by humans. The grizzly bears that remain in our states usually choose to avoid humans rather than expend energy on "revenge" for all the horrors dealt to them. I hope that grizzly bears in need of a home will be welcomed into Washington's North Cascades, and trusted to make it a better place.

Sincerely,


Sally O. Smyth

*Your comments were successfully submitted at
March 13, 2015 07:06 AM Mountain Time*

Park: North Cascades National Park Service Complex
Project: North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/Environmental Impact Statement
Document: North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan Public Scoping Newsletter

Name: Sally O Smyth
Address: PO Box 160
City: Camden
State: ME
Postal Code: 04843
Email Address: sos@wildlifecorridors.com
Organization: Vital Ground Foundation
Keep My Info Private: No

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The timing is right for Washington to respect its history of grizzly-tolerant cultures and a grizzly-inhabited ecology. Cultural attitudes toward all wildlife including grizzlies has changed. Research into normal grizzly behavior has made more communities bear-aware. For instance, most people know that grizzly bear attacks are not the norm!

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Comments:

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Footnotes:

One reason that grizzlies got the reputation for ferocity was that they were painfully wounded and thus enraged by the early explorers puny guns. **According to The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation National Overview. Issued August 2012. (Preliminary)&Wildlife Watching Expenditures of \$55 billion surpassed Hunting

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Comment ID: 955736-64266/1192



Washington Cattlemen's Association

P.O. Box 96 ♦ ELLENSBURG, WA 98926 ♦ 509-925-9871 ♦ Fax 509-925-3004
WACATTLE@KVALLEY.COM ♦ WWW.WASHINGTONCATTLEMEN.ORG

March 16, 2015

North Cascades
National Park Service Complex
c/o Denise Shultz, National Park Service
c/o Ann Froschauer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Comments regarding: *North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan – Environmental Impact Statement.*

The Washington Cattlemen's Association (WCA) would like to formally submit the following comments into the record regarding the US Fish & Wildlife Service and National Park Service North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan – Environmental Impact Statement.

1. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) should honor the Washington State Legislature (Sen. Morton's Bill from 1995, SSB 5106, Grizzly Bear Management, (RCW 77.12.035), and not reintroduce Grizzly Bears.
2. The WCA recommends "no-action" from the Service or the "status quo" policy. If Grizzly Bears are going to re-colonize the North Cascades they should do this without any augmentation from the Service as stated in (RCW 77.12.035) and only allow "natural regeneration".
3. The WCA is opposed to any requirements that create habitat linkages between the Selkirk Mountains and Cascades.
4. The WCA believes the additive effect of 200-400 Grizzly Bears in the proposed North Cascades Ecosystem (NCE) is totally unacceptable due to the negative impacts it will bring to ranching, logging, wildlife and recreation. Washington State is currently attempting to balance the public's concerns regarding the simultaneous recovery of both the Grey Wolf and the Grizzly Bear. The WCA is concerned about the constraints placed on the existing habitat and prey base for both of these apex predators and believes there are still too many unknown factors to move forward with the Grizzly Bear translocation efforts in the same geographic area.
5. If the Service elects to trump current State law (RCW 77.12.035) and go forward with the translocation of Grizzly Bears, in Washington State, the state should be provided the following assurances:
 - a. Assurances that The Service will not include any State or Private Land in the recovery zone.

- b. Assurances that the Service will designate the Grizzly as Threatened with the non-essential experimental (10-j) designation so management actions and control of problem bears can be taken quickly when needed.
- c. Assurances that the Service will require the WDFW to down-list the State listing on Grizzly Bears from Endangered to Threatened so problem bears may be managed consistent with federal law.
- d. Assurances that the Service shall provide all funds necessary to carry out all associated inter-agency both pre and post management of the bear (WDFW, DNR, WA Parks).
- e. Assurances that the Service will clearly outline all methods that will be implemented to ensure for the protection of human safety
- f. Assurances that Grizzly Bear recovery will not create any negative economic or ecological impacts to ranching, logging or recreational industries.
- g. Assurances that private or State Lands will not be subject to any new land use restrictions as a result of Grizzly Bears on the landscape.

Please contact the Washington Cattlemen's Association if you have any questions jfcattle@kvalley.com.

Sincerely,



Jack Field, Executive Vice Presidents
Washington Cattlemen's Association

Attachment:

RCW 77.12.035: Protection of grizzly bears -- Limitation on transplantation or introduction -- Negotiations with federal and state agencies.

The commission shall protect grizzly bears and develop management programs on publicly owned lands that will encourage the natural regeneration of grizzly bears in areas with suitable habitat. Grizzly bears shall not be transplanted or introduced into the state. Only grizzly bears that are native to Washington State may be utilized by the department for management programs. The department is directed to fully participate in all discussions and negotiations with federal and state agencies relating to grizzly bear management and shall fully communicate, support, and implement the policies of this section.

March 19, 2015

Dear Superintendent :

My name is [REDACTED] and my wife is [REDACTED].
I am writing you about Grizzly Bear E.D. scoping.

A brief history of my outdoor experience. Full scale exploration of Washington, with a goal of hiking ~~and driving~~ every trail and driving every road started Sept. 1971. My "to do" list is getting shorter as I am well into our 44th yr. of exploration.

We have ventured to Alaska, Canada, New England, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, California, France, Italy, Austria, Germany, Spain, New Zealand. mountains and forests.

In the North Cascades we think we saw a Grizzly Bear up the N. Fk. Bridge Cr. a many years ago by noseogram. After a huge brown colored black bear came unafraid through our camp at Flat Cr. and another encounter by rainbow lake I feel introduction of Grizzly Bears given the huge increase of human bear confrontations is not prudent in my experience.

I would not kill or relocate them if they were to naturally migrate south as have the moose in the passageway.

I realize they were a part of the eco-system 200 yrs ago, as was the mosquitoes that carried Malaria in the swamps of Florida (Florida) and the cat tail swamp of Elliot Bay by the Century Link Field in Seattle. The information background states they coexisted with people native to the North Cascades. I reply these people were few in number and concentrated in established areas, not anything like today's 21 billion dollar recreation resource! My Latin is a little rusty since high school but I think HORRIBILIS doesn't mean friendly neighbor!

I have carried bear containers, hung my food, used bear boxes in various states and you have stated these have reduced but not eliminated encounters! Your stated objection to "provide residents and visitors with the opportunity to again experience grizzly bears in their native habitat" is an accident waiting to happen; as I witnessed first hand human - bison, human - bull elk, human - mountain goat interactions at Yellowstone Nat. Park last summer. Rules explained nearness and space requirements but human visitor compliance was non existent. (5 ft from a wild bison!)

I think the present black bear population do

(cont.)

pg 3

an adequate job culling sick animals and providing visitors a primitive America glimpse into the past.

• Not maintained (trails) such as Kiddy Cr. (Mt Baker wilderness) because it is in Grizzly bear habitat is not the correct course of action. What needs to be done is the mission goal of The U.S. Forest Service espoused in its 100 yr. celebration film, and that is "habitate rehabilitation, and focus of rebuilding its recreation facilities that have been neglected and whose existence provide jobs for families and communities!"

The forests need to be managed more like Germany's and the huge clearcuts of DNR, near Toms, Quetta Tiger mt. should be replaced with selective cutting and thinning to be managed for a late ^{SECESSIONAL} successional goal. Only government has the territorial lowland forests to provide the habitat that a healthy ecosystem needs.

Human Safety should be of utmost goal of your actions! So the option I recommend is no action and the money saved should go to bridge trail replacements and hazardous trail conditions, trail maintenance, and new campgrounds!

Thanks for the opportunity to be involved.

March 19, 2015

To: Editor

[REDACTED]

I attended the recent public forum at the Okanogan PUD auditorium concerning Grizzly Bear reintroduction into the North Cascades. Unlike many of the past public meetings that dealt with controversial wildlife issues, this meeting was a textbook example of how to truly encourage meaningful input, positively engage the attendees, and develop a dialog with those of us who have an interest, pro or con, in Grizzly Bears. It was a great meeting, and I found it extremely easy to share my opinion and concerns.

This meeting was well planned and the room set up was inviting. Anyone who truly took the time to visit with any of the various biologists and naturalists could learn a great deal about Grizzly Bears. The presenters were excellent. You could not come away from those interactions without a greater understanding of Grizzly Bears, their lives, their preferred habitat, the potential for human interaction, and the possibilities of what may happen if reintroduction takes place.

In my past experience, these types of meetings with public agencies here in the Okanogan have sometimes devolved into an *us vs. them* rhetoric that did not further reasoned discussion or increase communication between good, well-meaning people who may have a difference of opinion. In the past, I have seen politeness and civility fly out the door and quite frankly, I almost did not attend because I was afraid any discussion of Grizzly Bears would turn into exactly that kind of difficult discourse.

For this meeting, I was very pleasantly surprised. For example, any attendee could meet individually and chat, one on one, with any of the experts in attendance. In my case, all my questions were answered, and anyone who desired to do so could actually learn something about Grizzly Bears. After those conversations and a perusal of the exhibits, there was a specific way an attendee could weigh in with personal conclusions and opinions about the idea of reintroduction. You simply sat down and wrote out your concerns.

There were plenty of places to sit and write, paper and pens provided, and if you were there, you knew you had as much time as you wished and as much paper as you needed to make your comments. For the hour or so I attended, there were always empty chairs at the comments table. If writing something at that time was not to your taste, or if you did not have the time at the forum, then website addresses were on the information handed out, and any attendee could go home and write at leisure.

I applaud the groups involved in how they presented this information. I came away from the meeting with a greater understanding and a sense of enlightenment about a difficult topic. Well done!

March 24, 2015

Comments on Grizzly Bear Restoration Environmental Impact Statement

I strongly do not want the introduction of new Grizzly Bears into the North Cascades Ecosystem. If they illegally cross from Canada, that presently cannot be stopped. Introduction of new bears is another U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services "Bad Idea" that will go wrong, just like so many of their other plans, with other species.

Grizzly Bears are not a critical part of the North Cascades Ecosystem and do not need to be recovered just because they may have been there at one time. Times change and the past cannot always be duplicated or need to be. This restoration effort will result in more land use restrictions (which is the real agenda) even including recreational use. We have already been told the North Cascades could no longer be for commercial uses, but used for recreation instead. It is predictable that recreation will be reduced to protect habitat and the few brave hikers that dare enter, will become prey for the predator Grizzly. Grizzly Bears will not coexist with man. We already have populations in other U S and Canada ecosystems and North Cascades restoration is not an urgent requirement. It is time to drop this proposal and save the taxpayer millions of wasted dollars.

Introduced bears will not stay where the maps and proponents suggest. This proposal has never been transparent or trustworthy, but a long endeavor by activist Environmental Groups and their Agency cooperators and not in the best interest of the public. The Agencies should not continue any role in restoring Grizzly Bears and end any future efforts.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sumas, WA [REDACTED]

3-25-2014

I see no reason to have
Grizzly Bears in North
Cascade Mt, since no
sign of them ever being
there to begin with

Yours Truly



East Wenatchee,
Wash



Superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich,

I strongly oppose the reintroduction of grizzly bears into the North Cascades.

I have a long history with grizzly bears, starting with the Craighead brothers' study of grizzlies in the late 50's and early 60's when I was in Graduate School in Montana. I observed the trapping of bears in Yellowstone Park and also the bears' movements around the campgrounds. I daily had coffee with the researchers and listened to all their stories. They trapped and anesthetized bears, weighed and measured them, and hid in their vehicles with their guns loaded when the bears woke up.

I was also a Ranger in Glacier Nat'l Park and saw bears there. When reported by me, the District Ranger picked up his rifle and immediately went in search of the bear. Several years before I was there, a ranger's son was severely mauled by a sow. I saw the son that summer who was visiting with his father. He was greatly disfigured. They had sued the Park Service and won. The Park Service then changed its policy towards bears in general and are not tolerant of any nearness to man. Now they determine if the bear was aggressive or simply protecting its young before taking any action.. Nevertheless, since that time there have been injuries and even deaths in Glacier from grizzly bears.

The encounters with bears in Yellowstone has diminished considerable since those long ago days. But in the last few years in Yellowstone, grizzlies are doing well, and there have been several deaths (2011) caused by bears; both near or in the Hayden Valley, places where I go to see wolves. We find it too dangerous to hike in the back country there because of the grizzlies.

I have backpacked in the Gates to the Arctic Nat'l Park in Alaska and saw grizzlies there. We carried bear spray for all 12 days of our trip and kept our camp clean. We were always in fear of bears.

To the Superintendent,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal regarding the importation of non-native grizzlies into North Cascades National Park and adjacent areas of the Washington Cascade Mountains.

I have read the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Restoration Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and related documents, and it is exceptionally difficult to understand the rationale in the light of the latest science and the comments made by biologists and land managers over the decades regarding the native North Cascades grizzly and the related news reports. Additionally, nowhere in this proposal is there open discussion with the Washington public, who holds their access to these mountains dear, of the serious problems and restrictions to access that would be created by importing an aggressive subtype of grizzly to our mountains. Indeed the people of Washington cherish this pristine landscape both for its unparalleled beauty and its park-like safety.

Comments made by biologists and land managers over the past decades, and reconfirmed by the park service in the recent Environmental Impact Statement, have confirmed that the Native Cascade grizzly, though modest in numbers, currently has a range extending from the Canadian boarder southwards to at least Interstate 90 and even, in at least one report, to Mt. Rainier National Park. Further, biologists over the years have advised that this native bear appears to have evolved (and perhaps continues to evolve) into a shy bear that tends to avoid human contact. For this and other reasons our native Cascade grizzlies have often referred to as "stealth bears."

This kind of peaceful species subtype has been observed elsewhere, notably the European Brown Bear (otherwise indistinguishable from the North American Brown Bear / Grizzly), which has evolved, according to the esteemed bear biologist, Dr. Stephen Herero of the University of Calgary, into a much less attack prone animal than its Rocky Mountain cousin. The European Brown Bear has become a very shy, reclusive animal that strenuously avoids humans – *and the results of this are remarkable.*

Recently, in December 2014, the National Geographic reported on a study in the respected journal *Science*, that details the **"broad recovery of four large carnivore species, wolves, brown bears, the Eurasian lynx and the wolverine" in crowded, urban Europe.** The big bears recovered, by themselves, in a highly populated landscape, a much more difficult situation than that faced by the native Washington grizzly. Thanks to the shy nature of the European brown bear it has had spectacular success repopulating the continent. Indeed the study notes that the brown bear/grizzly is now more numerous in Europe, where its population is 17,000, than in the lower 48 states of the USA where the population is 1,800.

Most importantly the report calls out the central issue in the grizzly discussion facing the North Cascades today: the European study presents a "'Coexistence Model' as a direct challenge to American thinking which separates people and nature." The American model, based on 19th century thinking, was a reaction to even "earlier policy goals to exterminate these species." This old idea, "essentially roping off certain areas" where people are discouraged from peacefully experiencing the landscape, is now proving to be mistake if the intent is to help large carnivore species thrive.

The point of the European study, and that of Dr. Herero, is that this new subtype of brown bear / grizzly has achieved wild success as an outcome of its shy, reclusive nature. This situation bears striking resemblance to the situation and opportunity we have with the North Cascades grizzly today.

The most recent photo of the native grizzly in the North Cascades attests that our native bear has succeeded in surviving in the Cascade Range during the century since the cessation of hunting. Its proclivity for peaceful, human-avoiding behavior is clearly in everyone's best interest (including the bears). And now

the European study demonstrates that the North Cascades Native Grizzly's peaceful temperament may represent the best opportunity for a huge population rebound of grizzly bears in the lower 48 states.

The biologists, and the North Cascades Grizzly EIS statement, acknowledge the hundred mile wide open corridor for grizzly migration from the mountains of British Columbia and both comment that some of these shy stealth bears are likely to be naturally crossing the border.

The EIS statement notes that 26 years ago a decision was made by the Grizzly Bear Committee to recover Grizzly bears in the North Cascades. But in the proceeding 26 years, and just recently, our knowledge of best practices has changed. Large carnivores have recovered, by themselves, in places land managers and biologists thought were far outside the realm of possibility (as in Europe) and succeeded best when the species subtype was reclusive. The relevant Land Managers owe it to the people of Washington to take a fresh look at the newest information from Europe and weigh the remarkable opportunity that appears to be presenting itself in the North Cascades, provided we let nature take it's course and do not import bears from elsewhere.

Indeed, this policy is now being followed for wolf repopulation in Washington State. The wolves, as it is being reported, are migrating from eastern to western Washington, unaided. Today they are being reported along the eastern slopes of the Cascades and are expected to repopulate the range in due time. Why impose a double standard treating one carnivore differently from another? Especially when the evidence is overwhelmingly in favor of leaving the situation alone. The situation brings to mind that of our native Salmon, threatened by interbreeding with non-native imported stock. Instead of risking the extermination of our subspecies by importing bears from Montana or elsewhere, we should be concerned with providing our native grizzlies good habitat and whatever time they need.

Given time it may very well turn out we will be the ones exporting some of our (peaceful) grizzly bears to places like California and Colorado in the distant future.

Of course not spending park and forest service funds to import, and manage the negative aftereffects of, non-native grizzlies could also free up badly needed money to restore trails and other access (the closure of which has been a significant topic in public meetings in recent years) and address other critical priorities.

The other half of this picture, only hinted at so far, are the rights of the people, and their children, and future generations, to peacefully enjoy their wild lands. The original federal act establishing the first national park in America intends it to be **"a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."** Before moving further with the current proposal to import non-native grizzlies, the agencies involved should fully inform the public of the negative impacts of those grizzlies in areas they inhabit and give great weight to the public's opinion and rights in this matter.

For example:

1. In the areas inhabited by the aggressive strain of grizzlies (such as Yellowstone) solo hiking (1 person), and other activities with parties of less than four (4) is often banned (or effectively banned). Individuals and small parties are instructed to wait at trailheads and attempt to join other parties (who would need to be going to the same place for the same length of time). Of course solo hikers and others who hike in small parties, fishermen, trail runners and climbing teams (typically 2) would find this a devastating restriction, as would other outdoor users. Best practices dictate keeping the party close together at all times including bathroom breaks, gathering water, etc. The majority of Washington state outdoors people, who are unlikely to be paying attention to this

current proposal, much less its impact, will likely react with considerable anger when encountering these new and permanent restrictions.

Further to this issue, is the park service prepared to expand every backcountry campsite area to allow backpacking parties of this size to go in? It's difficult enough to get backcountry permits now; many of the most beautiful backcountry campsites have only one or two "pads" where tents are allowed. What is the plan, and where is the funding, to double, triple or even quadruple the tent camping spots throughout the backcountry areas of the park to accommodate the requirement for parties of four and more?

2. The biologists have identified both the Mountain Alpine Zones and Valley Streams as primary habitat zones for these imported grizzlies. The agencies' proposal to have roughly 400 non-native grizzlies living in the Cascades would likely mean regular human-grizzly encounters in these areas. As the popularity of the Alpine Lakes area attests, the negative consequences would be a disaster in the areas most favored by people.
3. It is not uncommon in Montana and Wyoming for whole regions of parks and wilderness areas and stream areas to be closed to access due to grizzly activity including charges and attacks. As noted in the EIS statement, "Current [Grizzly] recovery efforts in the United States are focused on...conflict reduction and access management." In other words: area closures. As in the Montana parks, these closures (temporary or permanent) could include closing access to people to Alpine Zones, and their associated peaks, closing sections of streams, rivers and lakes to visitation and fishing, and disallowing camping in tents, requiring, or effectively requiring, camping in "hard sided" shelters such as RV's and cabins only. Again this would likely come as a shock, angering the Washington public many of whom cannot afford (or simply do not want) expensive RV's. Does the park service have the funds, or the inclination; to install tall, reinforced chain link fencing around every backcountry campsite as has become required in some areas inhabited by this aggressive species of grizzly in Montana?
4. It is understood that bear spray does not prevent an encounter or attack; it is only a last-option tool to be used under dire circumstances. Likewise it is difficult to imagine that all segments of the Washington outdoor community, including hikers, backpackers, fishermen, climbers, trail runners, mountain bikers, etc., would embrace getting firearms carry permits, firearms training, and then purchasing and carrying the responsibility and physical weight of firearms on every hike or outing or even exposing themselves to these situations where they may have to use firearms to defend themselves from attack. And, as the studies have shown, the use (and misuse) of firearms in these very difficult circumstances may simply enrage the grizzly resulting in a worse outcome.
5. Most importantly there is no way to prevent the encounter or attack in the first place. Since people have been killed by these aggressive grizzlies in their tents at night (a roommate of a friend of ours was killed by a grizzly at nighttime in their tent in Montana and other friends have abandoned trips due to being threatened by grizzlies in their tents at night) "solutions" such as bear spray and firearms are obviously inadequate. Incredibly, the new signs posted at Yellowstone trailheads advise that "If a grizzly attacks you in your tent fight back."

Very few Americans have shown a willingness to risk taking their families, taking their children, into a landscape inhabited by aggressive grizzlies. They understand that no amount of education can eliminate the risk and though only a fraction of the grizzly attacks and charges are reported in the press, there is a steady stream of bad news. This isn't just about "actual deaths" people will not go into the landscape if they feel threatened.

The recent examples of the mountain biker attempting to protect himself from a grizzly with his bike near the Tetons, the woman trail runner killed by a grizzly north of Montana in Canada (who after the initial attack climbed a tree and was dragged down and killed by the bear) and the family who could not land their canoe on Yellowstone lake due to a grizzly stalking them along the shore are only a few of many examples. I doubt that the people who enjoy Ross Lake in North Cascades National Park are even aware that importing aggressive non-native grizzlies is being discussed, much less the potential problems this will cause. The response of the park service at Yellowstone has been to post signs at the trailheads that say, "If a grizzly persistently stalks you and then attacks fight back." Seriously? The sign continues with a list of horrifying "what to do if's" including the advice to fight any grizzly that attacks you in your tent. What would nearly every family with children in Washington do when faced with such a sign at a trailhead?

They will go home.

The spread of aggressive grizzlies in Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks and beyond has effectively closed the natural lands of those parks to all but the tiny group of people intrepid enough to attempt the risk. Many of them say the experience of simply knowing the aggressive grizzlies were there was so frightening they won't dare it twice.

At a time when it is becoming ever more clear that spending time in nature is essential to people's health and well being, and in particular to children's health and well being, this access to nature should be considered an essential human right. In recent years it seems that a new study comes out every few months confirming and reaffirming the biological and psychological necessity for people to regularly have hands on time in nature. The rapidly growing scientific field of Human Microbiome studies, and the related "Hygiene Hypothesis," are building a growing body of evidence that children (and adults) who don't have this regular time in nature are at risk of suffering from a list of chronic ailments including allergies and asthma as well as life-threatening autoimmune diseases. The people of Washington should not have their right to access their mountain landscape for their health and happiness taken away.

The Agencies' Environmental Impact Statement detail notes, "the national park and national forest services [are already aware of] the high risk elements of human-grizzly bear conflict." It is understood that the risk is sharply increased when a human and grizzly surprise each other at close range. This makes the Cascades an exceptionally dangerous place to encounter an aggressive strain of grizzly, as it is a much more densely forested and convoluted landscape than the wide-open spaces of the Rockies. This ensures that many or most encounters will be at close range.

The understandable desire to avoid an encounter, or simply avoid the stress of hiking in or camping in terrain inhabited by these aggressive, non-native grizzlies, would effectively close the Cascade Mountain Range to the great majority of the seven million people of Washington, and to the millions who visit from elsewhere in America and abroad.

This effective closure would affect the current generations, their children, and all future generations and would, in my opinion, violate the Organic Act establishing the National Park Service. It states, "the service thus established shall promote the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations....and provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." It's worth noting that not only does the act provide for the rights of the people to enjoy the parks, but also that the park service has a duty to act in such a manner that promotes the use of the national park now and into the future.

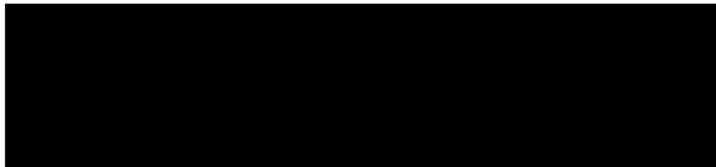
Effectively closing the park by importing aggressive, non-native grizzlies would be counterproductive to this mandate. It would also be counterproductive to the long term interests of the agencies and land managers themselves as studies (including a study reported on March 10th 2015 in the American Academy for the Advancement of Science) confirmed that time spent in nature is the most important factor inspiring people to engage in and vote for conservation.

As the National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis told the press, and the EIS statement reaffirms, the options for this process include “not importing grizzlies.” I would respectfully urge the Superintendent and the other Land Managers consider the latest science showing that not only can brown bears can expand their population on their own, even in the unlikely circumstances of Europe, but that the evolution of a milder native Washington grizzly (as with the example in Europe) may be the species greatest hope to thrive in the lower 48 states.

This is a new type of thinking; “Coexistence” means that a more peaceful subspecies can thrive best in a landscape where it coexists with people and that people have rights to peacefully experience the landscape without mortal fear. This newer way of thinking is difficult for us Americans, who are used to thinking (as the European study mentions) in terms of “roping off certain areas.” But it offers a new hope, that of bringing people and nature together, of bringing nature more fully into our lives, to the genuine mutual benefit of both.

I would also hope that great weight would be given to the human rights of the people of this state, and the nation, to retain their existing access to their wild lands. Rather than forcing an artificial timetable on a natural re-establishment process, the opportunity exists for the best of all possible worlds; give the peaceful native Cascade grizzlies and the people of Washington the chance to continue to coexist into the future.

Best Regards,



PS: Please keep my contact information private but feel free to contact me with questions.



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March 24, 2015

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Sent via US Mail

Dear Grizzly Recovery Planning Team:

Wilderness Watch is providing these comments on the scoping letter for grizzly recovery in the North Cascades National Park and surrounding wildlands.

Wilderness Watch is a national nonprofit wilderness conservation organization dedicated to the protection and proper stewardship of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The grizzly was an important ecological component of the Cascades. Where human actions have eliminated an indigenous species like the grizzly, where habitat conditions are suitable, and where the population will be self-sustaining, Wilderness Watch supports recovery of extirpated species. Natural recolonization is preferred to overt augmentation in Wilderness. Wilderness Watch strongly supports grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades provided it can be accomplished in a manner that is both respectful of and protects the area's Wilderness character, and does not result in the unnecessary deaths or harassment of grizzly bears.

We have several questions with the proposal and also some suggestions for alternatives. They are addressed in the following paragraphs.

Scope of the Proposal

Habitat and connectivity are major issues. It is acknowledged that long-term survival of grizzlies in the lower 48 states can't occur without connectivity to other populations. For example, the Salmon-Selway-Bitterroot, Greater Yellowstone, and Northern Continental Divide Ecosystems are all as large or larger than the North Cascades, especially if one includes all the public land, largely roadless, in those areas that should be considered (NOTE: The recovery areas are inconsistently drawn, based upon political rather than biological boundaries. As such, the North Cascades recovery area includes developed areas like the Stevens Pass Ski Resort and the town of Darrington while, for example, the Bitterroot Ecosystem excludes the Gospel Hump Wilderness and other large roadless areas of national forests). Even those areas with larger grizzly populations--Greater Yellowstone and

Northern Continental Divide—must have connectivity for long-term survival. None are large enough on their own. Additionally, none of the recovery areas in the US is close to such a large human population as is the North Cascades.

As such, the fate of North Cascades population is based upon habitat protections and grizzly protection in British Columbia. The fact that bears are not being detected now in the North Cascades, but were apparently expanding their range in the past couple of decades, suggests that their populations are in trouble in Canada. The DEIS needs to determine whether there are regulatory mechanisms in place in both Canada and the US that would allow recovery and if not, then augmentation should not be pursued until adequate regulatory protections are in place. Second, the DEIS should address whether there is connectivity to other populations in Canada as no other US population or recovery area is close enough to be considered connected.

Regarding augmentation, the scoping letter indicates that the population in the area is at risk of extirpation. While the letter indicates grizzlies have been confirmed, there have been no bears killed recently, which is usually (and unfortunately) the standard for absolute proof. Information on the website <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/mammals/grizzly/cascadesindex.html> suggests that augmentation may be necessary. However, how will the placement of a few bears recover a population that is estimated at most 50 bears (20 in the US and 25 to 30 in Canada)? In other words, how many different augmentations and over what period of time will be necessary to recover the populations? It certainly seems that a one-time augmentation is not being proposed, but rather a process of constant augmentation over years if not decades. Any analysis needs to be clear about this issue and analyze all of the augmentations under any alternative that proposes such an effort.

It seems obvious that, given the grizzly bear's low reproductive rate, any recovery, regardless of the method employed, will take several decades. Thus, why is augmentation currently deemed preferable to natural recovery when both methods will take a long time? Natural recovery may begin rather quickly, given the ability of grizzlies to travel long distances. The Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes that in the Bitterroot Ecosystem a bear, whose genetic background was from outside the ecosystem, was illegally killed in 2007 even though no evidence of bears had been seen for 60 years. A second grizzly was killed in the region in 2009, and in the past year a collared female grizzly has wandered into that same ecosystem and dened there. Since the Cascades supposedly have more bears (at least according to the UFWs website), it would appear that natural recovery is potentially viable. If bears are moving into the Bitterroot Ecosystem, they can certainly expand and move into the Cascades, provided there is connectivity.

For social and ecological reasons, natural recovery seems preferable. Bears that recover naturally in the area will be accustomed to the region. While the ecosystem has good habitat, it is also heavily used and adjacent to millions of people. Bears that are placed in this new environment would most likely be from areas with much less human use. These bears would more easily run into trouble because the opportunities for human contact would be much greater. Indeed, research shows that mortality of grizzlies is tied to two factors: the frequency and lethality of human contact.

Moreover, grizzlies that find their own way into the Cascades are likely to find more acceptance from those who oppose grizzly recovery, than if those bears are released by federal agencies. Experience with wolves in the Northern Rockies suggests wolves that were recolonizing the region were viewed much more favorably than the populations released by the government. While opposition to grizzly recovery by anti-grizzly factions is not a reason to forego augmentation or reintroduction, for the sake of the bears it seems it would be far better to promote natural recovery rather than translocating bears to the North Cascades.

Where would bears come from for any augmentation effort? The DEIS needs to assess whether any population that would be somewhat site-adapted, therefore reasonably close by, is robust enough to allow bears to be removed.

Furthermore, bears that are captured, handled, and collared tend to have greater conflicts with humans than bears which are left alone. Would any augmentation require extensive monitoring and recapture of bears? If so, it may doom the augmentation to failure.

Another factor to consider is that an experimental, nonessential listing could easily fail as well. There is far more latitude to take grizzlies under the experimental population than under full protection as threatened or endangered, which the population currently warrants. Natural recovery would not likely change the protective designation and regime currently in place. In fact, it would most likely improve upon it.

The map in the scoping letter incorrectly lists land ownership as US Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service and US National Park Service. None of those agencies owns the land. These are national parks, national forests, public lands and national wildlife refuges owned by all Americans.

Wilderness

Of significant concern is how augmentation would be carried out in Wilderness, if it does take place at all. As noted earlier, it would seem that natural recovery is a better option for the long-term well being of the bears as well as Wilderness. The use of helicopters or other mechanized equipment is incompatible with wilderness. Options for restoring populations of grizzlies should include measures that are compatible with and respectful of the region's wilderness character including non-motorized and non-mechanized translocation and monitoring of the animals. Further, even radio collars trammel the wildlife and therefore the Wilderness itself.

Wilderness is as much a process as place. It is "untrammeled by man" (wild or unconfined) with "primeval character and influence." These relate directly to a process that is devoid of human intent to manage habitat or wildlife. Any augmentation of grizzlies in Wilderness must be done in a manner compatible with Wilderness. However, if grizzlies are present in the Wilderness or if it is likely they will expand into the Wilderness, then it should not be necessary to augment them. The following section on alternatives gives some possible options to consider.

Alternatives

The preferred alternative is that of natural recolonization or recovery. Working with British Columbia to stop the hunting of grizzly bears in the ecosystem north of the border seems the best way to assure recovery. Also, any hunting methods for black bears need to be evaluated. It may be that black bear hunting should not occur for some time in the recovery area in order to prevent accidental deaths of grizzlies. Other protective measures may need to be instituted including seasonal closures to human use of areas where grizzlies may congregate during crucial times.

Precise information on where the augmentation may occur is lacking. However, it may be best for managers and grizzlies for any reintroduction to be done outside of Wilderness, if it is done at all. Given the perceived access needs of the agencies involved, it may be less stressful for the grizzlies to be released after a shorter trip than a longer one that would presumably occur in Wilderness.

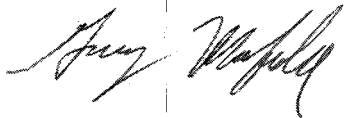
In addition, all alternatives should include non-mechanized methods for releasing, monitoring, or otherwise "managing" grizzlies within Wilderness in the North Cascades.

Summary

Wilderness Watch urges the agencies involved to take all measures necessary to promote the natural recovery of grizzlies to the North Cascades Ecosystem. We urge you to encourage the government of British Columbia to take all necessary measures to protect grizzlies in the ecosystem on the Canada side of the border. Only after measures are in place to protect existing populations of grizzlies, and those measures are shown to be inadequate to allow the natural recovery of grizzlies in the area should augmentation be considered.

Grizzlies were (and hopefully will be in the future) an important part of the wild Cascades. However, the EIS needs to make the case that augmentation is truly needed and that it will have some measure of success. It needs to fully evaluate the alternatives, duration and likelihood of success. Given the low reproductive rates, it seems that natural recovery would be best both socially and biologically for recovery in the long term. Please keep us updated on this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary Macfarlane".

Gary Macfarlane

February 20, 2015

Subject: Public Comment on Grizzly Bear Restoration in the North Cascades Ecosystem

Dear Public Comment Collectors:

There are several significant flaws in the process of evaluating taking an active role in the restoration of Grizzly Bear into the North Cascades.

First, and perhaps foremost, is the age of the study upon which this EIS is based.

Any study that is "two decades" old is not current enough to be valid. A great deal more is now known about global warming, and its impact on historic habitat. Our world is not the same world that existed in 1850, and be assured the habitat is not the same. It would be a grave, and potentially lethal, mistake to assume that the habitat location of 1850 still exists there today. **The relocation of Grizzly Bear from their current, perhaps marginal, habitat to an even more stressed environmental location would be to continue to ignore environmental change. Their cousins, the Polar Bear, should be a confirmation of a species gravely impacted by the effects of global warming. Relocating them to the south likely is NOT the answer.**

I personally believe that Grizzly Bear have not returned to the Washington State North Cascades during the past 100 years because **the existing northern populations are not choosing to migrate**. Further, I believe that a more current scientific study would support the reasoning as being due to environmental and habitat change, not human interference.

Second, there is an unsupported belief that enlarging our definition of the size of the Grizzly Bear Habitat Recovery Area would somehow bring the bear back. It would not. We can search for signs "until hell freezes over," however that will only provide jobs to humans in the habitat area. Designating the entirety of the North Cascades as habitat will not entice them to migrate here.

Third, the idea of "pretending" that a 10,000-square-mile ecosystem exists fails to consider the reality that several hundred years of human development have occurred since the bear population peaked, or that a border exists between the United States and Canada.

Fourth, United States governmental agencies **SHOULD NOT TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ANY GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION RELOCATION OR MOVE into this ecosystem**. In this instance, "letting nature take its course" is the correct approach to what is good for the existing bear populations.

Fifth, the arbitrary assignment of recovery numbers should not drive a recovery effort. A "healthy population" in today's environment may well be the existing population...not more and not less.

Sixth, the National Park Service has not addressed the well-documented threat of bear attack to humans in its park areas. There are many, many instances of lethal attack and disfiguring attack from the spectrum of bear species, yet there is too little being done to educate the public. On the contrary. this Grizzly Bear Recovery effort has been based on falsely presenting this bear as a non-lethal animal. Diminishing human fear is the opposite of preparing humans for potential contact. Spending more of the limited governmental financial resources on all-bear awareness programs will save lives...both bear and human.

Taken together, this narrows the "range of options" to planning for a new study that takes into

consideration the effects of global warming on this habitat, and “staying the course” with regard to “natural re-population.”

Sincerely,

Rockport, WA

March 9, 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am adamantly opposed to any re-introduction efforts of Grizzly Bears by the Fish and Wildlife Service. As a lifelong resident of Darrington I fail to see any benefits to our town. Because of the endangered species act, our town has been dealt harsh blows to protect the Spotted Owl and Marble Murrelet. Grizzlies are not an 'endangered species' so why? These protections have resulted in no management of our National Forest. My question is how many more acres will be set aside for Grizzly bear habitat. My guess is all of the remaining LRS and Matrix Land in the National Forest.

In the North Cascades the only predator hikers have had to be concerned with were the Mountain Lions. Grizzly bears have no natural fear of humans because they desire any food source.

The people of the metropolitan areas of the state are generally naïve about the real dangers of predators. People believe in the propaganda that has been distributed by Fish and Wildlife and special interest groups.

The rural people are the ones that have to put up with these introductions for example; spotted owls, wolves and grizzly bears. In my opinion if the city dwellers want wolves and grizzlies put them in the city as those areas were once forests.

If US State Fish and Wildlife want to do something for the public, allow fish from fish hatcheries to be planted in rivers such as the Sauk River. Recently a law suit was won by an environmental group, that no fish can be planted in the Sauk River for twelve years. Most all the small streams in the Skagit system have been closed to fishing or at least have a ridiculous requirement for keeping what is caught.

Re-Introduction of grizzlies is a bad idea and citizens in rural areas do not need to put up with them as we do not want them. Why are all public meetings held in urban areas and not rural areas, especially in areas that grizzlies are to be re-established?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Darrington, WA [REDACTED]

March 8, 2015

Superintendent
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 Sate Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Grizzly Bears in the North Cascades

To whom it may concern:

Please do not restore grizzly bears in the State of Washington. They are monsters that eat people particularly women. I personally know a young woman who was rushed by a grizzly bear as she was counting fish in a river in Alaska. If she had not had grizzly spray and the presence of mind to use it, she would not be with us today. I also met a person who was attacked by a grizzly in Yellowstone and permanently defaced. The mother of the young woman mentioned above knows a former park Ranger from Montana who was attacked while walking with his girl friend in the park and permanently disabled. His girl friend was killed. We have all read of horrific attacks by grizzlies in Alaska, Montana and Yellowstone. Please do not bring them here.

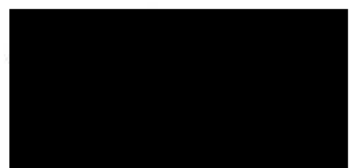
Are you sure they ever were here? My grandfather was a hunter in the north Cascades in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He never mentioned running into grizzlies. He did run in to a number of black bears. None of the generations following my grandfather became hunters, but many of us became hikers. We hate to see our hiking possibilities limited by the introduction of grizzly bears.

If you do introduce grizzlies then you will have to make grizzly spray available which introduces its own problems. You cannot honestly say it doesn't work when I know for sure it does.

Think of the grizzlies themselves. They may not appreciate being darted unconscious and dragged to an unfamiliar landscape where they don't know where the best fishing is or where the huckleberries grow. You say that a grizzly was sighted in 2010. Why didn't he, she or they stay? Maybe they don't like it here. Maybe the temperatures and flora are not to their liking. Why risk upsetting the bears and the people? The balance is not the same as it was when they were here (if they were ever here). There are many more people living in the State. Why upset the balance we have now? Why limit hiking for those of us who grew up loving to be in the wonderful mountain scenery alone? Why take that joy away from my granddaughter and all the young and avid hikers to come?

Many of us think planting grizzlies in the State of Washington is a terrible idea and hope that you will see that there is no reason to do this and many reasons to not.

Sincerely yours,



Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

My name is [REDACTED] and I've lived in or around
Timothey for 85+ years. I have spent at
least a week every year since I was nine in
the Poscyten and/or the Sawtooth, including the area
east of Ross Lake. For approximately twenty of
those 75 years I was outfitting or contracting
trails and was in the areas for 3 to 4 months
each summer. I have seen 4 grizzlies for sure
and one that definitely did not act like a
black bear. Of course, none of these were
"confirmed" by an "expert." Quite often, though
not every, I have seen grizzly tracks, although they
were not confirmed by an expert. As if the
only people that can be relied on to know a
grizzly, or tracks, has to be a recognized
"expert." I saw the bears in the 1960s & 70s.
The ^{best} tracks within the last few years. My point
is, if, very big if, the N. Cascades ~~is~~ grizzly
habitat, why haven't they stayed? I don't for one
minute agree with the assumption it is because
there was no company for them. Especially
since two of the ones I saw was a great big
male and a slightly smaller one. Two others
was a sow & cub.

Finally, where would any introduced bear come
from? State law states it is against
the law to bring bear from other states?

Your Name: [REDACTED]

Mailing or email address: [REDACTED]

Wraftrop, WA [REDACTED]

Organization (if applicable): N. Central Washington

☒ Member

☐ Official Representative

☐ (circle one)

3/9/15

2. Thrissif share Kistavator

Already support

The restoration of Thrissif bears
in the North Caucasus.

Was fortunate 50 years
ago to see one at Thordon
Creek. It was beautiful and
invaluable the memory is strong
and lasting.

Perhaps close the
opportunity to return and live
here. They enrich our
short Canadian experience.

Stokard Washington

4 March, 2015

Superintendent's Office,
North Cascades National Park Service Complex,
810 State Route 20,
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

To Whom It May Concern.

I completely support the proposal to restore a healthy Grizzly Bear population in the North Cascades of Washington State. They have been a part of the ecosystem in the past and need to be part of it in the future.

When I lived in Alaska I hiked and backpacked in various part of Alaska from the Brooks Range to The Wrangell/St. Elias Ranges, the Kenai Peninsula and The Chugach Mountains. All of it Grizzly country. If you follow back country procedures, precautions and use your common sense, you will find that you can share the back country with the native wild life.

If people could learn to live with the Grizzlies in Alaska, they can do so in Washington State. The Canadians north of us have done it for decades. People have to learn to overcome their fears. Man can learn to live with Grizzlies, Wolves, Cougars and other wild life. Native Americans had done so for generations.

I believe that there is a lot of public support for a restoration of the Grizzly bear in the North Cascades. I commend the National Park Service, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Washington Department of Fish and Wild Life for moving forward on this important project.

I encourage the use of common sense and the best science available to identify and implement an active program to restore a population of Grizzly Bears to the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone.

I wish you best wishes for a successful outcome of this project.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

Leavenworth, WA [Redacted]

[Redacted Address]

To: The National Park Service
The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and
the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Subject: Environmental Impact Study or EIS

Thank you for being here today to listen to our comments regarding restoration of a healthy grizzly bear population in Washington's North Cascades Ecosystem.

The Grizzly an Icon and – embodiment of the wilderness in the Northwest once common in California, is now extinct in all but 2% of their lower 48 range. In California about the only grizzly left is on the state flag.

I want to see the best available science used to identify and implement active strategies to restore a population of grizzly bears in the N. Cascades. Why? Many scientific studies have already been done by such scientists as Dr. Stephen Herrero, Dr. Tom Smith USGS, naturalist Enos Mills, Minnesota biologist Lynn Rogers (authority on black bears), Charlie Russell. Other members of the fraternity dedicated to providing evidence that bears and people can co-exist peacefully are, Vitaly Nikolayenko, Stan Price, independent author Stephen Stringham and independent author decades in Alaska now living in Juneau, Nick Jans all of who concur that this is possible.

Why then, do we have the impression that bear attacks especially brown/grizzly- constitute a significant menace to life and limb? Part of it has to do with the high profile nature of the more spectacular and gruesome mauling, and our horrified fascination with the details. Despite the relatively small number of cases, bear attack books have practically become a genre by themselves with titles like "Bear Attacks, The Deadly Truth, Some Bears Kill, and Killer Bears" Overall these books range from well done and thoughtful to superficial and sensationalistic. These kinds of books and this kind of sensationalism has rendered grizzlies as a species bent on killing everything human for food therefore to be hunted and killed to extinction. One only needs to log on to the Internet and run a Google search on "World Record Grizzly" to run across a bear attack story of epic proportions-the story of a man-eating brute gunned down by a heroic U.S. Forest Service employee, complete with photos of the monster bear and a ghastly image of a mangled human leg and lower torso. There's only one problem: the whole thing is a bald-faced hoax. The bear in the photo was a big one, but not even in the top twenty, let alone close to the world record; it was killed by an ordinary sport hunter, and the snapshot of the human remains, while real enough, records a tiger mauling in India (if you look close, you can see the out-of-focus palm fronds.) There is big money in hunting bears also (in the millions).

The truth is the grizzly is according to naturalist Enos Mills (the greatest and most peaceable early champion of grizzlies) describes the grizzly as gentle, intelligent, and highly misunderstood creature. He stated that "It is a national misfortune that the overwhelming majority of people be imposed upon with erroneous natural history. The grizzly does not look for a fight: he is for peace at almost any price.

Lynn Rogers (Minnesota biologist) has stated :I'm a cautious sort of guy, and it took me years to overcome my own belief in all the myths about bears (black) the special danger of females with cubs, the natural ferocity of any bear, all the rest of the stuff you see on the cover of "Outdoor Life" "I was as

fearful and brainwashed as anybody. As I gradually learned their language, I began interpreting apparently aggressive behaviors as manifestations of their own nervousness and fear.

That is not to say people must not be cautious or that they should play nicey-nice with bears.

Everyone must be cautious and knowledgeable about bears.

But on the whole they are not the man-eaters that they are made out to be.

As far as ranchers being concerned about the presence of grizzlies and their impact on livestock, it should be comforting to understand that grizzlies are loners. They are very shy. They adapt to food such as insets, sledge grasses, clams, salmon, carrion and sometimes each other. Bears thrive in a suitable habitat where humans are few. Preserve the habitat and give them room enough and they will be fine.

There are ways of keeping safe in their natural habitat. It is just a matter of education about bears.

Not until the greening trend of the latter half of the 20th century (the Endangered Species Act of 1973) did the great bears begin to recover. It was then that we began to rediscover in ourselves the deeply rooted, mystical bond between the great bears and ourselves – a trend that continues to this day.

I do not want to see these great creatures become extinct and would look forward to their reintroduction into the North Cascades.

Please note: Some of the stastics and information were taken from Nick Jans "The Grizzly Maze".

Sincerely,

Bellingham, WA



Lummi Indian Business Council

2665 Kwina Road · Bellingham, Washington 98226 · (360) 312-2000

'Working together as one to Preserve, Promote and Protect our Sche Lang en'

March 11, 2015

Defenders of Wildlife
1130 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Conditional support for re-introduction of Grizzly Bear into North Cascades Region in the
USNPS / USFWS Grizzly Bear EIS

To whom it may concern:

This is to convey our qualified support for the re-introduction of a native species, Grizzly Bear, *Ursus arctos horribilis*, into that portion of its native range lying within the North Cascades region as described in the USNPS / USFWS Grizzly Bear EIS.

We believe that the reintroduction of this nearly-extirpated native species is an important step in the re-balancing and restoring of bio and ecological functions historically provided by this top level opportunistic omnivore. At the same time, we find that for this action to succeed it is absolutely essential for it to include a component that provides and preserves the habitat necessary to support these animals. We do not feel that this component has ever been adequately addressed in contemporary non-federal forestland management strategies. And in the absence of such policy-mandated practices, mere reintroduction simply cannot be expected to succeed.

In addressing this need for sufficient habitat, we also note that since much of the USNPS-managed lands are at the upper elevations of the Grizzlies' range, with the lower elevations being under state management and private ownership. We urge the USNPS and USFWS to engage and coordinate with the USFS, State of Washington's Department of Natural Resources and such large forestland owners as the services deem desirable or necessary to meet the habitat needs outside of those provided by USNPS lands.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on and support your proposal.

Sincerely,

Elden Hillaire, Chairman
Lummi Nation Natural Resources Commission

Mike McGlenn

Subject:

FW: [BCHW legislative] The Bear Meetings

[REDACTED]
Marine Surveyor and Consultant

[REDACTED]
Bellingham WA
[REDACTED]

1. No trails should be closed to stock users.
2. No zones which include stock trails should have restrictions on stock use.
3. Bears that set up shop outside a core area within the ecosystem should be moved back. (In other words, if they end up in Twisp Horse Camp, Haney Meadows, or Salmon La Sac, the bears should go, not the campers.)
4. Any management advisory committee should include back country recreation representatives include a stock user either from BCHW or WOGA.
5. Any on-going management advisory committee should have a reasonable balance of interests.
6. Stock users should be able to quickly defend themselves AND their stock.
7. Bears should be tracked, and the public should know in what areas they are active.
8. The use of bear wire should be allowed, and in some cases, may need to be permanently fixed, even in Wilderness areas.
9. In order to allow for quick exits from bears, the use and allowance of chainsaws in Wilderness should be encouraged in order to keep trails open.
10. No translocation should occur unless state law allows for it (which it does not now).

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
11/10/15
BCH of WHA/ROM

BACKGROUND TO THE WILDLANDS PROJECT

Rural landowners who desire to use their own property are shocked when they learn new regulations increasingly restrict them from doing almost anything. These regulations ostensibly protect endangered species, viewsheds, open space, or a host of other reasons for limiting the owners rights to use their land. Although the environment and society allegedly benefit from the regulations, it is the landowner who pays the price through lowered property values. Rarely does the property owner receive just compensation for the societal benefit—as required by the U.S. Constitution and almost every state constitution. Rather the property owner is required to pay the entire cost, even though all of society supposedly benefits.

Essential Background Reading

Why Property Rights Matter
The Problem With The Endangered
Species Act
International Domination of US
Environmental Law and Private
Property
The Wildlands Project

These regulations are usually developed by planners or other professionals who have no real-life experience in rural living. Because they have no real understanding of what is required to develop exploit natural resources, they establish idealistic arbitrary and capricious rules that make farming, ranching and timber growing increasingly difficult and less profitable. When some resource users

find they can no longer farm, ranch or produce timber profitably they are forced to sell their property at a greatly reduced value because the same regulations devalue the land. Those who own property near an urban area face an added burden when their ad valorem taxes skyrocket due to the growing potential for development. Yet, when they try to sell their land for development they find their property value has plummeted because regulations requiring open space and other societal benefits severely limit the ability to develop the land and therefore its value.

Property owners in America have always accepted the need for regulations. Common law since the time of the Magna Charta has always allowed the government to restrict property *use* that would otherwise cause problems of safety, health, harm or nuisance to the community or the property owner's neighbors. However, the imposition of regulations to provide vague *benefits* to society or the environment is relatively new in America. This new process is called **sustainable development**. With sustainable development, no longer do property owners in the United States have unalienable property rights, as penned in the Declaration of Independence and protected in the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights. Instead, government imposes on property owners what are termed "**usufructory rights**." Since unalienable property rights provide the foundation to liberty and wealth in America, sustainable development portends dire consequences to all Americans.

By definition, usufructory rights are the rights to use and enjoy the profits and advantages of something belonging to another, as long as the property is not damaged or altered in any way. Conceptually, it is similar to renting or leasing something within limits set by its true owner. The usufruct system of property use is derived from the Latin word *ususfructus*. Originally it defined Roman property interests between a master and his slave held under a usus fructus (Latin: "use and enjoyment") bond. The Romans expanded this concept to create an estate of uses in land rather than an estate of possession. Having seized lands belonging to conquered kingdoms, the Romans considered them public lands, and rented (*ususfructus*) them to Roman soldiers. Thus the emperor retained the estate (possession) in the lands, but gave the occupier an estate of uses.

The growing mountain of environmental and other regulations that supposedly benefits the public good in the United States today has stripped Americans of the unalienable right to *possess* land. Instead, Americans increasingly have only the *usufruct* right to use the land and pay taxes

(rent). As with the Romans, the government retains the right to determine how the land is used.

The Link Between Sustainable Development and The Wildlands Project

The usufruct principles of sustainable development first became public at the 1976 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I) held in Vancouver. For instance, the Preamble of Agenda Item 10 of the Conference Report states that:

Land...*cannot* be treated as an *ordinary asset*, controlled by individuals and subject to the pressures and inefficiencies of the market. Private land ownership is also a principal instrument of accumulation and concentration of wealth and therefore contributes to social injustice; if unchecked, it may become a major obstacle in the planning and implementation of development schemes. The provision of decent dwellings and healthy conditions for the people *can only be achieved* if land is used in the interests of society as a whole. *Public control of land use is therefore indispensable....*" (Italics added)

Throughout this UN document the socialist model for private property rights are set forth as the basis for future United Nations policy:

Public ownership or effective control of land in the public interest is the *single most important means of...achieving a more equitable distribution of the benefits of development....* Governments must maintain full jurisdiction and exercise complete sovereignty over such land.... Change in the use of land...should be subject to public control and regulation...of the common good. (Italics added)

State control over private property has been central to every international treaty since the 1970s. The United Nations' World Commission on Sustainable Development formalized this into international policy when it published its report *Our Common Future* in 1987. This landmark report helped trigger a wide range of actions, including the UN "Earth Summits" in 1992 and 2002, the International Climate Change Convention, The Convention on Biological Diversity and worldwide "Agenda 21" programs. Agenda 21 is a 40 chapter master plan to reorganize national laws to the socialist principles of central control. The United States signed Agenda 21 during the 1992 Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Chapter 15.3 requires "urgent and decisive action" be taken "to conserve and maintain genes, species and ecosystems, with a view to the sustainable management and use of biological resources." To do this chapter 15.4 requires that "Governments...should:

- (a) Press for the early entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with the widest possible participation; and
- (b) Develop national strategies for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources.

Chapter 15.5 of Agenda 21 continues by stating that "conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats...should include the reinforcement of terrestrial... *protected* area systems...and promot[ion of] environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas with a view to furthering protection of these areas." The United Nations and its international allies designed the Convention on Biological Diversity to be the workhorse in fulfilling these requirements. The treaty was merely a 18 page outline of what needed to be done. Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) correctly called it "a preamble falsely described as a treaty." The implementing language was to be added after enough nations ratified it to put it into force. Even so, Article 8 of the treaty uses almost identical language used in Agenda 21:

- (a) Promote a system of *protected areas* or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity;

(e) Promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas with a view to furthering protection of these areas."

By August of 1993 the Clinton administration accepted Agenda 21's challenge when it directed "natural resource and environmental agencies...develop a joint strategy to help the United States fulfill its existing international obligations (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Agenda 21)...the executive branch should direct federal agencies to evaluate national policies...in light of international policies and obligations, and to amend national policies to achieve international objectives." This effort became the primary reason for the need for vice president Gore and president Clinton to reinvent government.

To accomplish this, president Clinton also created the President's Council on Sustainable Development. The council was comprised of green-oriented industrial leaders, natural resource cabinet heads and leaders of major environmental groups. The council produced a host of socialist guidelines to implement Agenda 21 in a series of documents under the banner of Sustainable America from 1996 to 1999. These became the official policies of the federal government and were heavily promoted by environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and foundations. All are centered on the usufruct concept of property.

The United Nations intended that the implementing language for the Biodiversity Treaty be taken from the Global Biodiversity Assessment (GBA), a 1040 page tome that ostensibly scientifically defined the reason and the methodology for protecting biodiversity. The GBA establishes the need for the usufruct concept,

- *Property rights are not absolute and unchanging*, but rather a complex, dynamic and shifting relationship between two or more parties, over space or time. Section 11.2.3.1.2
- One option for ensuring against excessive species depletion is the *allocation of property rights* in order to create markets. Section 12.7.5
- A common characteristic of many ecosystems is that resources are non-exclusive in their use: they are in the nature of *local public goods*. Property rights can still be allocated to the environmental public good, but in this case they should be restricted to *usufructual* or user rights. Harvesting quota, emissions permits and the development rights are examples of such rights. Section 12.7.5
- "The point here is that the *reallocation of property rights implies the redistribution of assets*." section 12.7.5 (Italics added)

The usufruct concept of property had to be in place before any part of Agenda 21 and the Biodiversity Treaty could be implemented. Perhaps the most chilling, however, is that in order to protect biodiversity, the GBA called for placing vast areas into wilderness and protected from human use:

Representative areas of all major ecosystems in a region need to be reserved.... Reserved "blocks should be as large as possible.... Buffer zones should be established around core areas and corridors should connect these areas. This basic design is central to the Wildlands Project in the United States (Noss, 1992), a controversial...strategy...to expand natural habitats and corridors to cover as much as 30% of the US land area." (Section 13.4.2.2.3)

In other words, the Wildlands Project was designed to be the cornerstone of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Although the ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity was stopped in the U.S. Senate in 1994, explained below), millions of dollars are spent annually to implement it without benefit of the treaty. It has already destroyed the lives of thousands of people. Eventually, every American will experience its severe consequences.

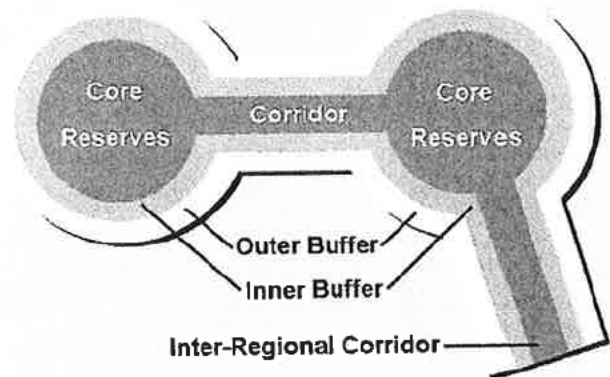
The Wildlands Project

The reference to Noss, 1992, in the GBA is to a special issue of *Wild Earth*, a publication of the Cenozoic Society, a NGO committed to re-wilding the United States. In this issue, Dr. Reed Noss lays out in detail the land conservation strategy to implement the Wildlands Project.¹ The Wildlands Strategy calls for establishing core wilderness reserves that are interconnected by wilderness corridors, all of which would be surrounded by buffer zones managed to protect the wilderness areas (See Figure 1).

The strategy normally is accomplished in five steps:

1. Identify existing protected areas such as federal and state wilderness areas, parks, national monuments, refuges and other designated sites. They should be from 100,000 to 25 million acres in size. These are already wilderness or close to it. Such tracts would serve as "core reserves" completely off-limits to human activity.
2. Identify other multiple-use government land that can be politically forced into wilderness status. Roadless areas are highest priority, but existing roads can be closed if roadless areas are not available.
3. Create wilderness corridors along streams, rivers and mountain ranges that interconnect the core reserves.
4. Purchase, condemn or regulate private property to fill in the gaps where public land did not exist. Usufruct regulation is preferred because the government would not have to pay for the land.
5. Create buffer areas around land not in core reserves or interconnecting wilderness to manage them sustainably so they protect the core wilderness areas.

Components of a Regional Recovery Network



The Wildlands Project calls for establishing thousands of core reserves and interconnecting corridors from Alaska and the Northwest Territories to Chile and Argentina.

Wildlands Project co-author Reed Noss explains that in the core, corridor and buffer areas, "The collective needs of non-human species must take precedence over the needs and desires of humans."¹ The Wildlands Project is the master plan for both Agenda 21 and the Biodiversity Treaty, and represents a grandiose design to transform at least half the land area of the continental United States into an immense "eco-park" cleansed of modern industry and private property. Says Noss;

One half of the land area of the 48 conterminous [United] States be encompassed in core [wilderness] reserves and inner corridor zones (essentially extensions of core reserves) within the next few decades.... Half of a region in wilderness is a reasonable guess of what it will take to restore viable populations of large carnivores and natural disturbance regimes, assuming that most of the other 50 percent is managed intelligently as buffer zone... Eventually, a wilderness

network would dominate a region and thus would itself constitute the matrix, with human habitations being the islands.²

The Wildlands concept is largely the work of Dave Foreman, the principal founder of the eco-terrorist group Earth First! and a former member of the board of the Sierra Club. Foreman describes the Wildlands Project as an effort to "tie the North American continent into a single Biodiversity Preserve." Foreman summarizes Wildlands as "a bold attempt to grope our way back to 1492" — that is, to repeal a half-millennium of Western civilization, with its unique blessings of material prosperity, technological progress, private property and individual rights. Indeed, the vision statement of the Wildlands Project is stunning in scope;

Our vision is simple: we live for the day when Grizzlies in Chihuahua have an unbroken connection to Grizzlies in Alaska; when Gray Wolf populations are continues from New Mexico to Greenland; when vast unbroken forests and flowing plains again thrive and support pre-Columbian populations of plants and animals; when humans dwell with respect, harmony, and affection for the land...³

John Davis, editor of Wild Earth, acknowledges that the Wildlands Project seeks nothing less than "the end of industrial civilization.... Everything civilized must go..."⁴

In this bizarre scheme, human civilization must be radically reconfigured, mines would be closed, roads torn from the landscape, timber harvesting stopped and human populations relocated. All of this is to be done, according to Wildlands co-founder Michael Soulé, in harmony with a prophetic vision: "The oracles are the fishes of the river, the fishers of the forest and articulate toads. Our naturalists and conservation biologists can help us translate their utterances. Our spokespersons, fund-raisers and grass-roots organizers will show us how to implement their sage advice."⁵

Defeating the Biodiversity Treaty

All of this could be dismissed as flatly ridiculous were it not for its central role in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and its near religious support by nearly all of the environmental NGOs. Agenda 21 and the Biodiversity Treaty would permit a restructured and unaccountable UN Trusteeship Council to regulate any human activity that presents potential harm to biological diversity. Secretary General Kofi Annan's July 18, 1997 UN Reform plans, "[the Trusteeship Council will] be reconstituted as the forum through which Member states exercise their collective trusteeship for the integrity of the global environment and common areas.... At the same time, it should serve to link the United Nations and civil society in addressing these areas of global concern."⁶ In principle, this mandate would cover all human activity, given that almost anything humans do is deemed as harmful to biological diversity.

**THE BIODIVERSITY TREATY
WOULD PERMIT A
RESTRUCTURED AND
UNACCOUNTABLE UN
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO
REGULATE ANY HUMAN
ACTIVITY THAT PRESENTS**

THE WILDLANDS PROJECT

Step by step, piece by piece, the Wildlands Project is coming to fruition. The Project, foundational to the U.N. Biodiversity Treaty which was never ratified by the U.S. Senate, calls for approximately 50 percent of the United States to be set aside as "wildlands", where no human can enter. Much has been accomplished over the past 10 years toward that goal, and the pace is stepping up, with the help of the federal agencies under Clinton/Gore.

From control of the water - to taking land out of private ownership - to "protecting" numerous species - all the pieces of the puzzle work together to form the complete picture.

Following are just a few of the news stories that reflect the piecemeal workings to attain the overall goal. People remain unaware of the size and scope of the operation because land is being taken in the name of "endangered species". Other articles on this site address that issue.

Many of the stories under the current news for this month involve the "taking" of private property and methods of changing the status of private land ownership into public land ownership. Look at these in light of The Wildlands Project, and the pieces of the puzzle will begin to fit.

Be sure to read how the [Global Biodiversity Assessment](#) affects each and every one of us.



Map from www.wildlandsproject.org

"The Wildlands Project's work to reconnect the continent begins with "MegaLinkages"—vast pathways that tie natural places together. Each MegaLinkage is made up of regional "Wildlands Networks." Within the Spine of the Continent MegaLinkage, six Wildlands Networks have been proposed, and within these networks, the Wildlands Project has launched a campaign to protect "Endangered Linkages"—the critical connection within each network that is most threatened." [Room to Roam - "Saving Wildlife Linkages along the Spine of the Continent"](#)

[The Wildlands Project - their own site](#)

[Statement & Map of the Wildlands Project \(their site\)](#)

[Mission, Vision & Statement of The Wildlands Project](#)

[American Wildlands](#)

[Sierra Club Wildlands Campaign](#)

[NEW! This Land is OUR Land Untamed nature and the removal of humans.](#)
By Tim Findley

[Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act - 20 million acres for "Wildlands"](#)

(Their website has been "scrubbed clean" of the projects they had listed - note the "missing" pages when you click the link.)

[Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative](#)



Do a Google search for yourself - [click here for results](#) - and see what you will learn.

[See how much land in the US is owned by the Federal Government as of July 2010 \(map prepared by State of Utah\)](#)

[A slideshow of The Wildlands Project can be viewed here.](#)

[History of The Wildlands Project](#)

Implementation of The Wildlands Project (via the UN Biodiversity Treaty) is set out in Agenda 21. [Read the actual document here.](#)

[Explanation of the Biodiversity Treaty and the Wildlands Project by Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D.](#)

[7/03- Grants in Pacific Region Support Land Acquisition \[and\] Conservation Planning for 'Endangered Species' - "\\$5 million for Recovery Land Acquisition, \\$30 million for Habitat Conservation Planning \(HCP\) Land Acquisition, and \\$4.5 million in HCP Planning Assistance"](#)

[The Wildlands Project by Larry Thompson for Land Use News](#)

[Transforming America: Everglades Wildlands by Henry Lamb](#)

For more information than you'll want to know, go to www.google.com and type in "Reed Noss", "Dave Foreman" (co-founders of the Wildlands Project; Foreman was "Earth First!" founder), and The Wildlands Project.

[Conservation Biology Institute](#)

[Wildlands Maps Lists](#)

[Wildlands Maps](#)

[USDA Maps of Roadless Areas](#)

[Follow the Trail - The Agenda Is Exposed!](#)

[How Much Land Does the Government Own?](#)

[1995 Map](#)

[Map of the "Mountain to Sound" Greenway](#)

[Wilderness Areas Map from Conservation International 2002](#)

[Methow Valley: Methow Basin Planning Unit Agreement](#)

[Creating corridors - a plan by the USFS](#)

[Follow the Links - Here are the Wildlands Projects already in place!](#)

[Follow the Trail - The](#)

These are the folks who have carved up the entire Pacific Northwest into 41 "ecoregions", and have made complete evaluations and plans for their "conservation".

It won't take much wandering around the CBI site before you realize the huge amount of money that's behind all of this...

Results from a search for "EPA" "restoration" and "European settlements"

One of the ways to get there: "Smart Growth" (Advance Bulletin website)

Around the States:

IN MAINE

The battle over land grabs in Maine - see also "Willing Seller Willing Buyer" - A Survey of the Not So "Willing" Sellers

Latest News Items:

7/6/2010 - Wildlife Corridor Conservation Act introduced in Congress

10/8/04 - The Nature Conservancy Contributes to \$16 Million Jamaica and U.S. Debt-for-Nature Swap - U.S. and Jamaican Governments Protect Tropical Forest on One of the Most Biologically Diverse Islands in the Caribbean

8/19/05 - Ecologists propose: Lions on the plains would alter order of the food chain

9/7/05 - Rewilding America - by Joyce Morrison

9/11/05 - The Nature Conservancy: How they work - Funding for Conservation and Debt-for-Nature Swaps

11/14/06 - NGO proposes debt swap for agrarian reform

11/14/06 - Wild Sky headed for fast approval - Key opponent's ouster clears way for new wilderness area

Agenda is Exposed!

Follow the Money - Where the funding comes from

NEW! Nature's Landlord - The Nature Conservancy from Range Magazine (24-page pdf file)

NEW! Biodiversity

Wildlands Center for Preventing Roads

More Information Here

BACKGROUND MATERIAL

Feb. 10	The Wildlands Project - Background Story	<i>by Henry Lamb</i>
Feb. 10	NGOs and Bioregions Methods to Implement The Wildlands Project	<i>eco-logic</i>
Fall 1999	STRANGE EQUALITY - Eco-elitists save private playgrounds in California	<i>Range Magazine</i>
April 1996		<i>New American</i>

	The Battle for Sustainable Freedom Principled conservationists are teaming up to fight the UN's eco-agenda	
4/15/02	Building the Wildlands Project <small>By Don Amador</small>	freedom.org
5/30/03	47 in the United States - U.N. Biosphere Reserves - Why the government is grabbing our land <small>by Henry Lamb</small>	eco-logic
6/1/03	Core Wilderness and Corridors: U.N. influence in Alabama <small>by Henry Lamb</small>	eco-logic

[Click Here for NEWS STORIES & PRESS RELEASES - 2000-2001 involving the Wildlands Project](#)

9/13/99 - [The Wildlands Project: Bold Dream for America's Wildernesses](#)
-[Los Angeles Times](#)

2/02 - [The USFS issues a report to implement the Wildlands Project](#)

6/2/02 - [Diplomatic Immunity for the Sierra Club?](#) by Dr. Michael Coffman, PhD

9/26/03 - 9/26/03 - [Returning to Earth Worship, Part 1](#) - Dr. Michael Coffman

10/10/03 - [Eco-worshippers? Church, state and nature's cathedrals](#) - Cathi Young for Reason Magazine

12/19/03 - [Headlines from "Skid Marks"](#) - Newsletter from Wildlands Center for Preventing Roads

1/3/04 - [Being Green in the Land of the Saints](#) - In the heartland of the Mormon Church, a new movement is taking root

5/6/05 - [H.R. 1204 to move The Wildlands Project forward](#)

Quotes:

The Wildlands Project flowered at the end of the 20th century by holding out hope for a 21st century environmental future. It offers hope for the restoration of a wild America. It is a vision both intellectually modest and morally breathtaking - a welcome relief from a century that was intellectually overweening and morally decrepit. - *Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club*

[From The Wildlands Project website - vision section](#)

[More on the Wildlands Project at North Western Research Institute's Site](#)

Dave Foreman

Key Player

Share

-
-
-

RELATED ORGANIZATIONS NOTABLE QUOTES

Founder, Earth First!; Founder, Wildlands Project; Author, *Eco-Defense: A Field Guide to Monkey Wrenching* and *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior* A former environmental lobbyist and Sierra Club board member who became disillusioned with the democratic process, Dave Forman founded the notorious “direct action” environmental organization Earth First! Foreman declared that “Earth First! is a warrior society,” and under his leadership the group has engaged in arson, violent assault, and vandalism of all kinds.

Foreman is the author of *Eco-Defense: A Field Guide to Monkey Wrenching*. As the name suggests, the book is an instruction manual for illegal sabotage and how to get away with it. Foreman’s “Confessions of an Eco-Warrior” justifies his life of zealotry by stating: “We humans have become a disease — the Humanpox.”

Foreman pled guilty to conspiracy after he was accused of providing the funds to blow up power lines leading to and from a nuclear power plant. Foreman wrote a check to buy grenades.

Foreman left Earth First! in 1989 and founded the Wildlands Project, which seeks to restrict human civilization to limited patches of the Earth and wall off the rest for nature to rule. From 1995 to 1998 he served on the Sierra Club’s board of directors. He is presently the publisher of *Wild Earth*, the periodical of the Wildlands Project.

ENVIRONMENT People and Predation

by William Norman Grigg - 1/29/01

from *New American Magazine*

http://www.thenewamerican.com/tna/2001/01-29-2001/vol17no03_predation.htm

The biocentric eco-activists who seek the removal of industrial civilization from North America consider human life just another link in the food chain.

"Biocentrism," the ideology that inspired the Wildlands Project, holds that humanity is just one species in a democratic "biosphere." From this perspective, humans who choose to live within the habitat of a protected non-human species are interlopers. This is why Wildlands fanatics — in addition to shutting down economic development, private land ownership, and recreational use of "re-wilded" lands — seek to "re-colonize" those lands with non-human species. This process is presently underway within the proposed Yellowstone-to-Yukon (Y2Y) "bioregion."

"Already, transplanted wolves from [British Columbia's Muskwa-Kechika] region formed the foundation of Yellowstone's successful lobo transplantation program," reported the *Christian Science Monitor*. "Thriving Canadian lynx and wolverine populations could also be tapped for augmentation. And [last] November, the US Fish and Wildlife Service [FWS], in conjunction with a plan by Defenders of Wildlife and the National Wildlife Federation, announced that in 2002 Canadian grizzly bears will be relocated to the Selway-Bitterroot wilderness of Montana and Idaho."

Animals like the grizzly, lynx, and wolf are what Wildlands co-architect Reed Noss calls "flagships" — "charismatic species that serve as popular symbols for conservation." Wildlands propaganda abounds in poignant pleas on behalf of threatened "flagship" species and invocations of the duty to preserve such animals "for our children." Such media-friendly mantras are used to conceal the vicious misanthropy that animates the Wildlands Project. As Wildlands activist John Davis stresses, "in the long run all lands and waters should be left to the whims of Nature, not to the selfish desires of one species which chose for itself the misnomer *Homo Sapiens*."

According to Wildlands-linked activists on the Canadian side of the Y2Y zone, human beings across most of the western half of North America may have to be shoved aside to make room for grizzlies. British Columbia's *Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy*, which was published in 1995 and remains the basis for the province's protected areas policy, employs the "charismatic species" concept by insisting that "nothing is a better measure of our success in maintaining biodiversity than the survival of this species."

Apparently, "recovery" of the grizzlies will require ample *Lebensraum*, since "over its lifetime, a single grizzly bear will require a home range between 50 and 100 square kilometers, and — in some cases — up to thousands of square kilometers." Within "grizzly bear management areas," continues the document, human activities "that are not compatible with grizzly bears [will be] carefully controlled or not allowed."

The Wildlands Project mission statement speaks of a day in which "Grizzlies in Chihuahua have an unbroken connection to Grizzlies in Alaska...." British Columbia's provincial *Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy* reflects that same vision by describing the historical range of the North American grizzly as encompassing "the western half of North America from the Arctic to central Mexico" — thereby conjuring up the decidedly improbable image of grizzlies frolicking on the slopes of Popocatepetl (see map).

"Zone of Imminent Danger"

The case of Montana rancher John Shuler, who was fined \$7,000 by the FWS for killing a grizzly that had attacked his sheep and threatened his home, illustrates that in conflicts between humans and non-human predators within protected areas, it is the predator that will be given the benefit of the doubt. When Shuler appealed the FWS fine, a federal administrative law judge ruled that when he had sought to protect his property he had "purposefully place[d] himself in the zone of imminent danger of a bear attack" and fined the rancher an additional \$4,000.

Wildlands activists seeking to recover large predators throughout the mountainous West are placing landowners across the region in the "zone of imminent danger" by design. According to one supporter of re-wilding Western lands, the introduction of large predators like grizzly bears and wolves is to "bring back another element that has been vanishing from the Western back country. That ingredient is fear. Wolves [and similar large predators] are killers.... People will think twice before traipsing into the back country."

According to Wildlands Project board president Harvey Locke, "helping large carnivores recolonize parts of their former range" is a major aim of the re-wilding process, since the effort would "preserve or restore species at the top of the food chain." This would come as news to those people in the areas slated for re-wilding, who may have assumed that *humans* are the "species at the top of the food chain." Difficult though it may be for rational people to understand, many biocentric radicals consider ecologically "unenlightened" humans to be little more than a source of protein for non-human predators.

In July 1997, a female cougar killed a 10-year-old in Colorado's Rocky Mountain Park. Rangers tracked the animal down and killed it, prompting voluble protests from several biocentric fanatics. "The female lion represented the future of her species, which I believe has an equal right to exist on this planet," wrote environmental activist Gary Lane in a letter to the editor of a local paper. "The lioness deserved better treatment from the rangers." The cougar's destruction also angered Sherrie Tippie of Wildlife 2000, a Denver-based biocentric group, who complained that "the only species we have too many of is the human one. I am very concerned about the influx of people into our state who are not educated about our wildlife."

In 1990, California voters approved Proposition 117, a measure banning the sport hunting of mountain lions. In predictable fashion, the cougar population exploded,

ravaging food sources and driving the starving carnivores into human population centers in search of sustenance — with lethal consequences for both livestock and human beings.

After a cougar attacked a 10-year-old girl near Los Angeles in September 1993, two park rangers reluctantly dispatched the crazed predator. Other attacks resulted in physical injury to human beings. Finally, in April 1994, a woman named Barbara Schoener was attacked by an 82-pound female cougar. The cat crushed Schoener's skull, then dragged the hapless jogger 300 feet and devoured her face and most of her internal organs. Fish and Game officials hunted the cougar down and killed it, and in doing so provoked the wrath of local biocentrists.

In a letter to the *Sacramento Bee*, one eco-radical suggested that "this noble creature may well have been venting centuries of mountain-lion anger against the humans who have driven it from its land, destroyed its home, ruthlessly hunted it down, and, as the final indignity, debased it to an advertising device to sell cars." Wayne Pacelle, vice president of the Humane Society, accused those who were outraged by the death of Barbara Schoener of using harmful stereotypes. "The HSUS accepts that individual animals judged to be a threat to people should be removed. But the injurious act of one animal should not provide a license to wreak vengeance on other members of an animal population. *We are encroaching on their habitat, and we must respect that they should have a place to live as well.*" (Emphasis added.)

In late 1995, 56-year-old high school counselor Iris Kenna was attacked and mauled by a 140-pound cougar in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park near San Diego. Commenting on that and other cougar attacks, pollster Michael Manfredo told the January 8, 1996 issue of *Newsweek*: "There's a value shift about how people view wildlife, a high willingness to accept mountain lions on the urban fringe — even if they kill people." As the Wildlands Project unfolds, cougars, wolves, bears, and other predators will have ample opportunities to test that "value shift."

Some eco-radicals have candidly admitted that one purpose to be served by re-colonizing predators in or near populated areas is to drive recalcitrant humans off the land. Few biocentric radicals have expressed this militant misanthropy as candidly as David Garber, a research biologist with the National Park Service:

Human happiness, and certainly human fecundity, are not as important as a wild and healthy planet. I know social scientists who remind me that people are a part of nature, but that isn't true.... We have become a plague upon ourselves and upon the Earth.... Until such time as Homo Sapiens should decide to rejoin nature, some of us can only hope for the right virus to come along.

POTENTIAL HARM TO BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The Senate was asked to authorize the creation of implementing "protocols" that would be written after the treaty had been ratified and would be binding upon the signatories. The "factual" information upon which the implementing language was to be based was found in a 1,140-page UN Global Biodiversity Assessment (GBA) that was in draft form when the Senate was considering the treaty.

The Senate was poised to ratify the Biodiversity Treaty in September 1994, when the American sheep industry obtained a portion of the draft GBA from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Switzerland, the original author of the treaty. As noted above, the GBA specifically cites the Wildlands Project as the template for protecting biodiversity. It was the smoking gun.

The draft GBA, along with maps provided by Environmental Perspectives, Inc. depicting what this would look like when fully implemented, arrived the day of the vote and was taken to the Senate floor by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R-TX) a mere hour before the scheduled cloture vote for the treaty. The extremely controversial UN information caused then-Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-ME) to withdraw the treaty from consideration. It was never voted on.

The connection between the Biodiversity Treaty and the Wildlands Project was not a coincidence. The treaty was originally written by the IUCN in 1982, about the time it was promoting a new science called conservation biology, which, in turn, provided the justification for the Biodiversity Treaty. Two of the key promoters of this unproven science were none other than Reed Noss and Michael Soulé who, along with Dave Foreman, co-authored the Wildlands Project. Although few Americans have even heard of the IUCN, this organization has its fingerprints on just about every alleged environmental problem in America today. Read the International Domination of US Environmental Law and Private Property for more information on this connection.

¹Reed Noss. "The Wildlands Project, Land Conservation Strategy." *Wild Earth*, Special Issue, 1992, pp. 10-25.

²Ibid, p. 15.

³Dave Foreman, et. al. "The Wildlands Project, Land Conservation Strategy." *Wild Earth*, Special Issue, 1992, pp. 3.

⁴John Davis. "The Wildlands Project, Land Conservation Strategy." *Wild Earth*, Special Issue, 1992, pp.9.

⁵Michael Soulé. "The Wildlands Project, Land Conservation Strategy." *Wild Earth*, Special Issue, 1992, pp.9.

⁶Documents 'Track I' (A/51/829) of March 17th, 1997, and 'Track II' (A/51/950) of July 14th, 1997.

Agenda21/Sustainable Development in a Nut Shell

What is Sustainable Development?

According to its authors, the objective of sustainable development is to integrate economic, social and environmental policies in order to achieve reduced consumption, social equity, and the preservation and restoration of biodiversity. Sustainablits insist that every societal decision be based on environmental impact, focusing on three components; global land use, global education, and global population control and reduction.

Social Equity (Social Justice)

Social justice is described as the right and opportunity of all people "to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society and the environment." Redistribution of wealth. Private property is a social injustice since not everyone can build wealth from it. National sovereignty is a social injustice. Universal health care is a social justice. All part of Agenda 21 policy.

Economic Prosperity

Public Private Partnerships (PPP). Special dealings between government and certain, chosen corporations which get tax breaks, grants and the government's power of Eminent Domain to implement sustainable policy. Government-sanctioned monopolies.

Local Sustainable Development policies

Smart Growth, Wildlands Project, Resilient Cities, Regional Visioning Projects, STAR Sustainable Communities, Green jobs, Green Building Codes, "Going Green," Alternative Energy, Local Visioning, facilitators, regional planning, historic preservation, conservation easements, development rights, sustainable farming, comprehensive planning, growth management, consensus.

Who is behind it?

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (formally, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives). Communities pay ICLEI dues to provide "local" community plans, software, training, etc. Addition groups include American Planning Council, The Renaissance Planning Group, International City/ County Management Group, aided by

US Mayors Conference, National Governors Association, National League of Cities, National Association of County Administrators and many more private organizations and official government agencies. Foundation and government grants drive the process.

Where did it originate?

The term Sustainable Development was first introduced to the world in the pages a 1987 report (Our Common Future) produced by the United Nations World Commission on Environmental and Development, authored by Gro Harlem Brundtland, VP of the World Socialist Party. The term was first offered as official UN policy in 1992, in a document called UN Sustainable Development Agenda 21, issued at the UN's Earth Summit, today referred to simply as Agenda 21.

What gives Agenda 21 Ruling Authority?

More than 178 nations adopted Agenda 21 as official policy during a signing ceremony at the Earth Summit. US president George H.W. Bush signed the document for the US. In signing, each nation pledge to adopt the goals of Agenda 21. In 1995, President Bill Clinton, in compliance with Agenda 21, signed Executive Order #12858 to create the President's Council on Sustainable Development in order to "harmonize" US environmental policy with UN directives as outlined in Agenda 21. The EO directed all agencies of the Federal Government to work with state and local community governments in a joint effort "reinvent" government using the guidelines outlined in Agenda 21. As a result, with the assistance of groups like ICLEI, Sustainable Development is now emerging as government policy in every town, county and state in the nation.

Revealing Quotes From the Planners

"Agenda 21 proposes an array of actions which are intended to be implemented by EVERY person on Earth...it calls for specific changes in the activities of ALL people... Effective execution of Agenda 21 will REQUIRE a profound reorientation of ALL humans, unlike anything the world has ever experienced..." **Agenda 21: The Earth Summit Strategy to Save Our Planet (Earthpress, 1993). Emphases – DR**

Urgent to implement – but we don't know what it is!

"The realities of life on our planet dictate that continued economic development as we know it cannot be sustained...Sustainable development, therefore is a program of action for local and global economic reform – a program that has yet to be fully defined." **The Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide, published by ICLEI, 1996.**

"No one fully understands how or even, if, sustainable development can be achieved; however, there is growing consensus that it must be accomplished at the local level if it is ever to be achieved on a global basis." The Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide, published by ICLEI, 1996.

Agenda 21 and Private Property

"Land...cannot be treated as an ordinary asset, controlled by individuals and subject to the pressures and inefficiencies of the market. Private land ownership is also a principle instrument of accumulation and concentration of wealth, therefore contributes to social injustice." From the report from the 1976 UN's Habitat I Conference.

"Private land use decisions are often driven by strong economic incentives that result in several ecological and aesthetic consequences...The key to overcoming it is through public policy..." Report from the President's Council on Sustainable Development, page 112.

"Current lifestyles and consumption patterns of the affluent middle class – involving high meat intake, use of fossil fuels, appliances, home and work air conditioning, and suburban housing are not sustainable." Maurice Strong, Secretary General of the UN's Earth Summit, 1992.

Reinvention of Government

"We need a new collaborative decision process that leads to better decisions, more rapid change, and more sensible use of human, natural and financial resources in achieving our goals." Report from the President's Council on Sustainable Development

"Individual rights will have to take a back seat to the collective." Harvey Ruvin, Vice Chairman, ICLEI. The Wildlands Project

"We must make this place an insecure and inhospitable place for Capitalists and their projects – we must reclaim the roads and plowed lands, halt dam construction, tear down existing dams, free shackled rivers and return to wilderness millions of tens of millions of acres or presently settled land." Dave Foreman, Earth First.

What is not sustainable?

Ski runs, grazing of livestock, plowing of soil, building fences, industry, single family homes, paves and tarred roads, logging activities, dams and reservoirs, power line construction, and economic systems that fail to set proper value on the environment." UN's Biodiversity Assessment Report.

Hide Agenda 21's UN roots from the people

"Participating in a UN advocated planning process would very likely bring out many of the conspiracy- fixated groups and individuals in our society... This segment of our society who fear 'one-world government' and a UN invasion of the United States through which our individual freedom would be stripped away would actively work to defeat any elected official who joined 'the conspiracy' by undertaking LA21. So we call our process something else, such as comprehensive planning, growth management or smart growth." J. Gary Lawrence, advisor to President Clinton's Council on Sustainable Development.

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

The NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan has been studied to death for years and years. Just put the bears in the North Cascade Park and wilderness Area. Some people will be upset and some people will be very happy.

Most, if not all the people commenting for or against the grizzlies will die of old age before the bear has even a little paw hold in the North Cascade mountains. If there are problems with the bears it will be decades before it becomes apparent and then adjustments can be made to solve any problems.

Again, put the Grizzly Bears in the North Cascades.

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Winthrop, WA _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

PLEASE RESTORE GRIZZLIES TO THEIR
NORTH CASCADES HABITAT.

WILDLIFE BELONGS!

BEARS & WOLVES ARE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR
FOSTERING HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS.

LIVESTOCK & SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (eg developers
& HUNTERS) ARE NOT THE IMPORTANT
"STAKEHOLDERS"

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Organization (if applicable):

~~Bobo~~ Bold Visions Conservation

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

Translocation is my choice. We need the bears back - they're a part of who we are.

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

Comments by [redacted] Jhm

① I HAVE TRAVELED IN WESTERN FORESTS FOR 60 YEARS. I HAVE SEEN ALPINE MEADOWS TURNED INTO ~~meadows~~ ~~by~~ RANCHERS CATTLE WHO HAVE GRAZING PERMITS.

I AM CONCERNED THERE IS NOT ENOUGH FOOD FOR GRIZZLIES IN THE CASCADES.

AS A RESULT BEARS WILL EAT CATTLE THAT SHOULD NOT BE IN NATIONAL FORESTS.

THIS WILL BE AN EXCUSE TO SHOOT THE BEARS - STOP GRAZING PERMITS!

② I HAVE VISITED MANY TIMES A GRIZZLY VIEWING STATIONS IN KNIGHT INLET ON THE B.C. CANADIAN COAST.

A MILE OR 2 UPSTREAM CANADIAN GUIDES + HUNTERS FROM EUROPE OR TEXAS ARE PROVIDED WITH A BEAR TO SHOOT! WILL GRIZZLIES IN THE NORTH CASCADES SIMPLY BE A SUPPLY OF BEARS FOR CANADIANS TO SHOOT? WHEN THEY CROSS THE BORDER,

Your Name: [redacted]

Mailing or email address: [redacted]

Bellingham, Wash [redacted]

Organization (if applicable): INDIVIDUAL CONSERVATIONIST

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

For the North Cascades Ecosystem
Grizzly Bear Restoration

I Frank Ancock once lived in
Naknek Alaska and there where
many Grizzly Bears in the area
and some time they came into the
town. The people in Naknek lived
with the Grizzly Bears it all worked out.
So we in the North Cascades can
also live with a few Brown Bear.
here. As Vancouver and Seattle get
bigger and bigger, it is good for us to
have wild land near by. Many Canadian
like myself enjoy the the North
Cascades Ecosystem

Sincerely

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Delta B.C. V4K 2W7

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

I support and advocate for the
restoration of Grizzly Bears in the
North Cascades in the State of
Washington by TRANSLLOCATION!

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

Bellingham WA

[REDACTED]

Your Name:

[REDACTED]

Mailing or email address:

[REDACTED]

Organization (if applicable):

private citizen

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

Dear Grizzly bear restoration team:

Thank you for providing an opportunity to study the ramifications of restoring the Griz to the North Cascades ecosystem. I am extremely excited at the prospect of actively working to ^{help} ~~make~~ the ecosystem grow towards its fuller, more diverse self rather than watching it slide into a monoculture. I would be thrilled if you could simply gather up sows, young and a few males and pop them into the Chillinwack and the Pasayten. But I know there are many stakeholders to consider such as ranchers and recreational hikers and backpackers and wilderness advocates (myself included).

I have read a bit about the Yellowstone ecosystem and its grizzlies. The cattle/griz interfacing seems to be minimal. Perhaps a system of reimbursement for lost stock could be ~~set~~ set up in case problems occur—a great NGO project.

I think education is a key to helping hiking and backpacking visitors feel more confident and well prepared. NOCA does a great job of keeping black bear/human clashes to a minimum. If visitors understood how very shy the griz feels around humans, I think that would go a long ways to reassuring the humans.

The Wilderness character is a big consideration. I have pretty negative feelings concerning air traffic in wilderness. I do think we can come up with a plan that minimizes the disruption.

Thank you for all of your work.

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Organization (if applicable): Skagit Land Trust

☒ Member

☐ Official Representative

☐ (circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

I am in favor of the relocation of grizzly bears from the British Columbia Cascades or from another grizzly bear population in North America to the United States North Cascades Ecosystem. As an avid hiker having backpacked alone along hundreds of miles of backcountry trails, I value wilderness and the wild character ~~of~~ of the North Cascades Ecosystem. The presence of a grizzly bears in the North Cascades Ecosystem would enhance the wild nature of this area and would encourage me to continue to explore in the ~~National Park~~ North Cascades National Park Service Complex and the surrounding National Forests. To support me in my adventures, I purchase outdoors equipment, food, and services from local suppliers and retailers. The economic impact of my adventures would likely ~~be~~ remain positive or potentially increase as I make more trips to the North Cascades Ecosystem in hopes of being able to experience an enhanced sense of wilderness as a result of the presence of grizzly bears. In regards to risks to humans, statistics from other national park areas that have a grizzly bear populations suggest that with proper visitor education ~~the risk of injury or death from grizzly bear interactions is~~ the risk of injury or death from grizzly bear interactions with humans is quite low, especially when compared to other hazards ~~in the area~~ such as motor vehicle accidents or drowning. Additionally, the potential economic impacts to livestock owners is negligible especially if a government compensation program similar to other National Parks is implemented. Finally, I am not concerned about the potential short-term impacts of moving grizzly bears to the North Cascades Ecosystem including, but not limited to airplane flights or helicopter flights. I believe the long term benefits outweigh the short term impacts.

Your Name: [REDACTED]

Mailing or email address: [REDACTED]

Bellingham, WA [REDACTED]

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

We fully support the idea of bringing back grizzlies into the North Cascade ecosystem. Considering they aren't largely predatorial animals, we see no issues placing them in an area where there are people near by. Grizzly bears will contribute positively to the ecosystem and we will write more online when we get more educated on the issue :)

GO BEARS

Your Name: _____

From Anacortes High School

Mailing or email address: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my support for grizzly bear restoration in the NCE. I understand many people's trepidation about releasing such large + potentially dangerous carnivores in areas where we work, recreate + raise our families. Having worked + recreated in Glacier National Park for several years I know that experiencing the natural world in grizzly country is a different experience altogether. But this is an opportunity that I believe we must take advantage of. It will require us to rethink our relationship with the natural world, examining our impact on nature + in turn, nature's impact on us. It will raise our awareness + deepen our experience of wilderness. I believe that the valid concerns of workers, hikers, hunters can be addressed adequately + people can continue to work + recreate + raise their families in a Washington State that has grizzlies in its mountains. I believe that grizzlies living on the land in the NCE will have a positive impact on the land + serve as an indicator of the overall health of the ecosystem. I work at Fairhaven Middle School and our mascot is the grizzlier. I want my students to see a grizzly in the wild. By restoring grizzlies we will restore something in ourselves, something which I believe is crucial in this modern technological era. Thank you

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

I support the active restoration of Grizzlies to the North Cascades ecosystem. Letting them return on their own is too slow & unreliable.

A healthy population of grizzlies is important to overall health of the ecosystem, important to return of the overall health of the species.

They should be listed as at least threatened, and fully protected.

Their return will also contribute to the economic vitality of the region, promoting tourism.

The ecosystem is large enough ~~to sustain~~ & otherwise healthy enough to sustain a significant population of grizzlies.

Please explore: overall impact on biodiversity, what are we missing in the ecosystem, by not having them?

How widely should the ^{genetic} pool be drawn from ~~to~~ for the introduced population?

What other enhancements should be made to the ecosystem to support a ^{viable} grizzlies population?

What enhancements to the ecosystem will a healthy grizzly population allow/enhance?

How many bears can the ecosystem reasonably support?

Does their need to be a compensatory system for neighboring rodents? Are there any?

No killing/dropping of bears!!

Compensatory education on how to be in a ecosystem w/ healthy bear population

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Bellingham, WA _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

Active restoration - augmentation - please! Thanks!

Your Name:

Mailing or email address:

Organization (if applicable):

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

Working as a deckhand in Alaska, I spent a lot of time ~~with~~ watching grizzlies, and I'm disappointed that these amazing creatures aren't present in Washington. The re-introduction of grizzlies to their natural range in the Cascades would be a great step in restoring their natural beauty

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

Working as a deckhand in Alaska, I spent a lot of time ~~with~~ watching grizzlies, and I'm disappointed that these amazing creatures aren't present in Washington. The re-introduction of grizzlies to their natural range in the Cascades would be a great step in restoring their natural beauty

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

As an avid hiker and naturalist in the North Cascades ecosystem, I feel this ecosystem will be greatly benefited by reintroducing grizzly bears.

The potential human safety issue is small compared to deaths caused by motor vehicles or drowning, the odds of lightning striking a person is about the same as a grizzly attack.

The scope of the project is great if the amount of bears introduced is enough to eventually sustain a healthy population and keep enough wild space for them to live well and away from human disturbance.

Doing nothing for the bears is not working, "status quo" is not enough to help heal the North Cascades ecosystem. Please help Grizzly bears come back to the North Cascades.

Your Name: [REDACTED]

Mailing or email address: [REDACTED]

Bellingham, WA [REDACTED]

Organization (if applicable):

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

I support NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration.

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Lake Forest Park WA

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

to whom it may concern: I have lived in Twisp WA for 24 years and very active in the outdoors. I am very concerned for the well being of existing wildlife in the region that would be impacted by this plan. I don't believe you have thoroughly addressed or proved wildlife that already live here would not be displaced by adding a dominant omnivore to the mix.

I also don't see evidence on how I as a taxpayer am benefitting from adding this species which can not be proven to have existed here before man arrives.

You have not showed how management of the species will be paid for ie: where are the funds coming from other than forcing taxpayers to pay more tax so state positions can be created to manage species.

You have not proven displaced residents, livestock producers, users of public lands for income will be compensated.

You have not proven how many bears can survive here so put a blanket number to be added to ecosystem.

Overall I live here, care about the people and existing environment and you have not proven the introduction will not have devastating effects on the lives of people living here and ~~not~~ surviving here. I am adamantly opposed to this plan or reintroduction of any Grizzly bears.

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Twisp, WA _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

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Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Twisp, WA _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

We do not wish to see Grizzly Bears
in The North Cascades because we had grazing
lease on Chopatka (DNR) from 2008 for
cattle. (Forest Service + BLM)

The fish + Game is still monitoring the
impact of wolves on the wildlife + domestic
livestock and human activity in The North
Cascades, one at a time

We do not wish to confront a Grizzly
Bear while moving cattle or fixing fence
in the wilderness where help is a long time
coming

On page 13 February 19, 2015 page 5
1st para. Grizzly Bears still lived in
The North Cascades, why should restoration
be needed, if they can populate, human
intervention is not needed, if the ecosystem
can support Grizzly Bears it will come
about without human intervention

No more Grizzly Bears in The North Cascades

Thank You

March 26, 2015

Your Name:

Mailing or email address:

Loomis WA

Organization (if applicable): Goodenough Grazing Assoc. (BLM DNR)

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

I have given this a lot of thought - I don't oppose grizzly bears being in the North Cascades. I would prefer they get there naturally. It seems when wildlife is restored to areas, they re-produce quickly and end up getting shot for one reason or another. This is what is happening with wolves. Now there is an over abundance of wolves so they have to be killed. This is sickening to me. I can see this happening with grizzlies.

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)



25 W. Main, Suite 434
Spokane, WA 99201
t 509.838.1057
f 509.209.2421
ucut.org

March 26, 2015

Superintendent
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Dear Superintendent,

We are writing today to express our support for the recovery of Grizzly Bears in the North Cascades ecosystem of Washington State. The Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) represents the federally recognized tribes of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, Kalispel Tribe, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Grizzly Bears once roamed all of the UCUT traditional homelands and have cultural and spiritual importance.

The North Cascades are home to the best habitat in the lower 48 states outside of the Rocky Mountains that is large enough and wild enough to support a recoverable and self-sustainable population. The North Cascades are a central part of the usual and accustomed territories of the UCUT and we must be consulted about planning efforts with grizzly bear habitat. As this effort moves forward into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, the UCUT looks forward to the government-to-government consultation process to fully express each tribe's comments on this important issue. We look forward to your agency sharing information about the NEPA Environmental Impact Statement process and updating the UCUT Members on next steps.

We request that the best available science is used to identify and implement active strategies to restore a viable population of grizzly bears in the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone. Therefore, the EIS must include alternatives to add grizzly bears to the North Cascades Ecosystem while considering input from local communities.

Sincerely,

DR Michel,
UCUT Executive Director

Dear SUPERINTENDENT
NORTH CASCADES NAT'L PARK SER COMPLEX

- Grizzly Bear reintroduction.

SOME OF THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF MY LIFE
WERE WHEN I WAS A YOUNG CHILD CAMPING
IN AND AROUND GLACIER NAT'L PARK.
A GREAT PART OF THE ROMANCE OF IT
WAS BECAUSE THE AREA WAS REAL BEAR
COUNTRY. THE NORTH CASCADES PARK IS JUST
AS SPECIAL AS GLACIER YET IT RECEIVES
LESS THAN 1% OF THE VISITORS. IT
WOULD AND SHOULD BE A SPECTACULAR
REAL WILDERNESS WITH THE FULL COMPLEMENT
OF ITS ORIGINAL NATURAL ANIMALS.

Yes. For Grizzly reintroduction!

Sincerely Yours

Seattle WA

P.S. SORRY MY COMPUTER WENT DOWN
SO THIS IS SLOANLY.

Why fix something that is not broke. This process would be very expensive. It took 200 million to introduce wolves. The United States is in debt by trillions. We simply can not afford this luxury.

I see this as another cash cow for environmentalists. The CEO of Defenders of Wildlife make 295⁺ thousand a year with a 29 million a year budget.

Then if there are legal battles all the lawyers profit from on going litigation.

It is time we become careful money spenders. Sure it is a warm and fuzzy feeling to help animals but we have to spend wisely.

Written comments
from NCE
Grizzly meeting
in Bellingham WA
3/11/15

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Caldwell, JD

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)