

To National Park service and
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife service.
 in reference to your Grizzly
 bear recovery plan. I don't believe
 we need any new predators in
 The state of Washington. The ban
 on hunting of cougar & bear
 with dogs has created lots of
 problems also the planting of
 non native wolves has also
 caused a lot of problems.

When you interduce non native
 species into our state you
 cause emence problems for
 ranchers, hunters, Farmers
 and every one else, ect. pigme Rabbits
 on Billings Ranch, Heids Ranch

wolves, Ranches where they are populated.
 the wolves & Grizzly bears you

plant in our state are not native
 to our state so they would be consider
 exantie and invasive species.

in chelan county they would be prohibited

pardon my writing it is poor. also
 The mangent of bear by our Gam Dept would be bad.

[REDACTED]
 Wenatchee Wash. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Chelan, WA [REDACTED]

March 5, 2015

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

Re: Strongly Against Grizzly Bear Restoration in North Cascades

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We pack llamas for our summer family camp trips into the North Cascades and the Alpine Lake Wilderness. Except for sighting an occasional black bear, we have had 20 years of trouble-free packing.

Grizzly bears are an animal we fear and respect. A llama is no match for a grizzly bear.

We are not hunters, we do not carry firearms when we pack. We would not like to have to carry firearms but would be forced to do so with grizzly bears around.

The reasons the grizzly bears were eliminated from the area are many and they are good reasons not to have them in our forests.

We are strongly against any planting of grizzlies in the North Cascades and Alpine Lakes Wilderness areas.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

On March 28, 2014 the Forest Service took public comments for the Swauk Pine Restoration Project in the Cle Elum Ranger District. One of the many contributing factors for the project was the North Cascade Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone, which included 23.3 miles of decommissioned roads around the town of Liberty.

I'm sorry I'm not politically correct. The so called decommissioned roads are not in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone. So the public was flat out lied to!

This was not the first time the public has been lied to by agenda-driven advocates working for we the people.

Let us not forget an incident which occurred right here in our own backyard in 2001 involving 3 Forest Service employees, 2 US Fish & Wildlife officials and 2 Washington State Wildlife officials who were all entrusted public employees. These individuals were involved in a scam which included submitting (quote) "unauthorized samples" (unquote) from a captive Lynx Cat and made to look like they were found in the wild. The quoted term was taken from a document dated Dec. 21, 2001 and signed by 19 seated members of the US Congress and addressed to the Honorable Gale A. Norton at the US Department of the Interior.

Again I quote from the same document from US Congress, (quote) "This unethical behavior appears to be a clear example of federal land officials acting in a manner that is less than honest with the American public. This issue further illustrates how vulnerable the public's access rights are to agenda-driven advocates within the federal land management agencies. How can the American people and Congress be assured the public's right to access and our ability to enjoy the great outdoors will be respected by federal land managers and other officials, when wildlife biologists engage in malicious activities that support the closet agenda of the "green community". (unquote)

The method currently in place for the so called neighborhood watch in the Teanaway valley is as follows.... When you see wolves, call your neighbors to let them know so they don't let their pets out. Now I guess the grizzlies need to be added to the neighborhood watch list.

health of our forests. The conditions of our forests affect our precious water supplies. The forest fire fuel load is extremely high and all of us are very vulnerable to catastrophic loss from wildfires. Of all things we the people need from our public servants, this should be the number one item on the list, before anything else!! We the people demand that you quit eroding our property rights for your agenda-driven propaganda.

I hope all of you in the audience today realize that it doesn't matter what we the people say. The people who are here to represent the public are going to do what they want to do, which as we well know, will ultimately defy the will of the people. Just like they did in the early 90's when crafting the boundaries for the Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone where I also spoke at a public input meeting held in Olympia; my words fell upon deaf ears there too!

I know from past experience that to speak out publically against you & your true agenda always results in retaliation against me. Let's not forget, vengeance does not belong to man! It belongs to God!

For the record, you are on the wrong side once again. I will continue to pray that God will have mercy on those in Government who continue to defy nature's law or God's law against their fellow man, to enslave us under their commerce and control and to further their evil agenda. In the end, our actions have consequences, and we all have to meet our maker in the end.....whether you believe it or not!!

THANK YOU!

PS The form of Public Comments you used
in your meeting does shelter you from facing
your accusers
You are all cowards!!!!
feel free To Call

Lynda V. Mapes can be reached at 206-464-2736 or

Norton urges probe of federal biologists

By Mike Soraghan
Denver Post Washington Bureau

Thursday, December 20, 2001 - WASHINGTON - Interior Secretary Gale Norton on Wednesday called for an investigation of federal biologists who planted lynx fur in two national forests as part of a study.

Her remarks came amid allegations from Congress that the biologists were trying to rig a study to keep people off federal lands.

Pushed by U.S. Rep. Scott McInnis, R-Colo., and others, Norton called for her agency's inspector general to look into the allegations, which she said left her "deeply troubled." The Forest Service is expected to announce as early as today that it is also planning to ask its inspector general to investigate.

McInnis, chairman of the House forest subcommittee, has called for the employees involved to be fired and is already planning hearings into the matter for early next year.

"All this does is blow a hole in the side of the ship USS Credibility," McInnis said.

But as the fur flap gained momentum Wednesday, environmental advocacy groups began to come to the defense of the scientists, who say they were trying to improve the study, not skew it.

"The Forest Service, with the help of some conservative congressmen, sees the opportunity to crucify some biologists," said Andy Stahl, of Oregon-based Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics.

The Forest Service has said that three Forest Service employees, two U.S. Fish and Wildlife employees and two Washington state wildlife officials were involved in submitting "unauthorized samples" from captive lynx as part of a survey of Canada lynx.

The four-year survey is intended to track where lynx live and how many there are in the United States. The results would be used to determine how best to protect the tufted-eared cat, which has been deemed threatened in 16 states, including Colorado. In places where lynx are found, restrictions could be placed on logging and winter recreation.

The biologists involved were taken off of the study and counseled. Forest Service spokeswoman Heidi Valetkevich said the employees' actions were "inappropriate" and "embarrassing" to the agency.

But the employees involved said they were simply testing the lab that was analyzing samples of lynx fur, after getting conflicting results from the lab.

Stahl said sending in a "blind sample" to test lab accuracy is part of basic science. He said it's Forest Service managers in Washington who have been trying to skew the science of the survey for years, because they don't want lynx to be found in their forests.

Doug Zimmer, a spokesman for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington state, said it appeared unlikely the scientists were trying to skew the study. He said one of the FWS scientists notified his supervisor that he planned to submit the blind sample. And he said using fur from a captive animal would make it easier to prove to others that there is no evidence of lynx in the forest.

"What they were trying to do was right thing," Zimmer said. "The way they went about it was the wrong thing."

Denver Post staff writer Theo Stein contributed to this report.

CONGRESS WRITES TO AG AND INTERIOR

>

>

>December 21, 2001

>

>The Honorable Gale A. Norton

>Secretary

>Department of the Interior

>1849 C Street, N.W.

>Washington, D.C. 20240

>

>Dear Secretary Norton:

>

>We are writing to express our deep concern about a recent Forest Service investigation that revealed the wrongdoings of several federal and state biologists who knowingly submitted unauthorized control samples -- on more than one occasion -- for analysis as part of an ongoing nationwide survey of Canadian lynx. We appreciate the Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife review and decision to reprimand and counsel the individuals responsible for such acts; however, we strongly believe these officials need to be terminated immediately if there is convincing evidence that they knowingly and willingly planted unauthorized samples. We also respectfully request that you review the potential criminal violations under various federal laws, especially with regards to 16 USC §3372(a) and 16 USC §1538 (a).

>

>This unethical behavior appears to be a clear example of federal land officials acting in a manner that is less than honest with the American public. This issue further illustrates how vulnerable the public's access rights are to agenda-driven advocates within the federal land management agencies. How can the American people and Congress be assured the public's right to access and our ability to enjoy the great outdoors will be respected by federal land managers and other officials? When wildlife biologists engage in malicious activities that support the closet agenda of the "green" community?

>

>It is our strong belief that Congress and the Bush administration must bring federal agency performance and accountability in line with the private sector or risk a continued erosion of the public's confidence in the system. Terminating those officials who knowingly and willingly planted unauthorized samples, and your willingness to investigate the case are steps in the right direction.

>

>We appreciate your attention to this request, and we look forward to your

>response. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have questions
>or comments.

>

>Sincerely,

>The following members of Congress signed the letters:

>

>Richard Pombo
>John Peterson
>Tom Tancredo
>Walter Jones
>Denny Rehberg
>George Nethercutt
>Bob Schaffer
>George Radanovich
>Barbara Cubin
>Greg Walden
>Butch Otter
>Don Young
>John Doolittle
>Duncan Hunter
>Duke Cunningham
>Mike Simpson
>Bill Thomas
>Scott McInnis
>John Shadegg



Advertisement

Message:

Quote message in reply?

In order to verify that you are a human and not a spam bot, please enter the answer into the following box below based on the instructions contained in the graphic.

March 10, 2015

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

Re: Grizzly Bears in the North Cascades

Dear Superintendent:

I would like to give you my thoughts on introducing Grizzly Bears into the North Cascades. I am very much against it as there are too many people who are now out there backpacking riding horses and bikes and Grizzlies are an unpredictable species. How can we not expect some "grizzly" encounters.

I used to backpack in the North Cascades and now I am going in with professional horse packers to see my old stomping grounds in the Pasayten Wilderness. First of all, I think having the bears out there will discourage some people from enjoying the outdoors and second I think it would affect the horse packers. They need to make sure their clients are safe and I can sure imagine a Grizzly spooking the horses and having clients hurt or killed. Those packers work really hard to make a living and I think Grizzlies in the North Cascades would make it tougher for them.

Also, I still take day hikes and day horseback trips and I do not want to have an encounter with a Grizzly Bear. If Grizzly Bears are going to be part of our backyard, I don't want to take a chance and be out there with them. If the habitat was right for them, they would already be there. They obviously prefer the habitat farther North. Also, do we really have enough prey for them here? Would they really improve the environment?

I beg you to help stop the introduction from going through. THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE IN THE OUTDOORS IN THIS MODERN WORLD! I think we should leave well enough alone.

A Person Who enjoys the Woods,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Winthrop, WA [REDACTED]

Superintendent

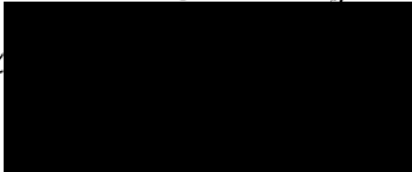
North Cascades National Park Service Complex

810 State Route 20

Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

I'm writing you to urge the protection and growth of the North Cascades population of grizzly bears. They need to be there to flesh out the native species that are missing. You may contact me for action support in carrying this out.

They are smart, amazing animals, and I have camped many nights with them walking around my tent while kayaking in Canada and Alaska.



Lynnwood, WA [redacted]

Once upon a time a long time ago—
Seven Generations ago— before 1492 Grizzly's
roamed freely in Our State and Nation.

I believe the Re-Introduction of the Grizzly
to our State / Nation in County, Traditional
Tribal Areas is Significant to The 7th Generation
and how bringing back the Eagle, the Bears(s)
and the Salmon is a Prophetic Act and a
Powerful Way to Re Awaken our Children to
the Value of All Life & the Sanctity of our
Eco System / Habitat as well as our traditional
cultural / spiritual traditions & ceremonies.

Children are Tomorrows Adults. A world without
eagles, bears and salmon is like a world without
dreams and visions.

I support the Re Introduction of the Grizzlies
to the North Cascades Eco system. Isaiah 35 =)

Can You Send (Me)
an Educational ; taken
Care of
Thank You
for the Card

Paschal Sherman
(Education)

Your Name:

Mailing or email address:

Organization (if applicable):

Paschal Sherman Indian School, Education

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Notes for Grizzly Bear meeting
Chelan County PUD
March 5th, 2015

[REDACTED] PhD, Research Biologist, retired
[REDACTED]
Wenatchee, WA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Translocating Grizzly Bears into Washington is a bad proposal for several reasons:

1. Grizzly bears have been observed in the North Cascades on several occasions. These individuals apparently came south from British Columbia or east from Northern Idaho. If these immigrants had found the habitat favorable, they would have stayed.
2. There are several fledgling populations of big game species that WDFW has been trying to get re-established. Grizzly Bears would place a new deterrent on recovery of these species.
3. Migration corridors between the North Cascades and adjacent bear habitat are adequate to allow natural spread into Washington. However, corridors into Olympic National Park are an exception and Bears may be a better fit there than wolves to help manage Mountain Goats and Elk herds.
4. Money spent on translocating bears would most likely be wasted, as released bears probably would not remain. There are better uses for the limited funds available for game management in Washington.
5. After the wolf introduction into Yellowstone, I have little confidence in US Fish Wildlife Service's ability to carefully plan for and manage relocated populations of wildlife.

I support the Restoration of Grizzly Bears.

① As humans, we are responsible to protect all native species and their habitat. The interdependency of Flora & Fauna is far beyond our ken. Increasing the population of Grizzlies can strengthen many species ~~resulting~~ in healthier forests.

② Grizzly, other mammals and wildlife keep our wildlands real, not just magazine pictures. Their presence helps us keep a perspective of our place on the planet, our relationships, dependency, responsibility and blessings.

③ Let's do with Grizzly what we did for the Eagle. Our ~~sadness~~ ^{salvage} their gave deep pride ~~to~~ and comfort to Native peoples, and, in fact, the world.

Your Name: [REDACTED]

Mailing or email address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Riverside WA
[REDACTED] Conservation NW

Organization (if applicable):

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

The part of the grizzly scientific name should tell you something - horribilus. Black bear are maneagable and can coexist with recreationalists. Grizzlies are territorial and consider man a threat not just a annoyance. If your stated goal is to encourage visits to the North Cascades, this effort should be stopped

Your Name:

Doug England

Mailing or email address:

on file

Organization (if applicable):

Chelan County Commission

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

Grizzly bears are noble creatures and they deserve to be supported in this recovery attempt in the NLF.

Your Name:

Mailing or email address:

Organization (if applicable):

Member


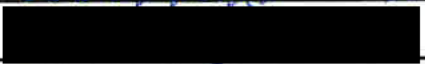
Official Representative

(circle one)

I ^{wholeheartedly} support NCE efforts to restore
Grizzly bears to the North Cascades.

Grizzly bears are a part of the
cultural and natural history of the
Pacific Northwest, and ~~wherever~~ ^{where}
practical and appropriate habitat
is available (such as the North Cascades)
every possible effort should be made
at restoration.

I encourage continued efforts to inform
and educate all of the communities
in the region. The event I am attending
here in the Okanogan is an excellent
way to present information about Grizzlies
and I encourage this type of effort.

Your Name: Mailing or email address: 


Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

Man is responsible for the loss of the Grizzly Bear population in the North Cascades National Park. This area would seem to be a suitable location for their restoration.

I am supportive of this effort as long as the process is governed by science and not fear and emotion.

Other similar areas (Yellowstone Glacier) have Bear populations and the effect is positive for the communities in those areas - tourists spend a lot of money!

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

- ① I am apposed to any additions to what grizzly population may currently be in Washington state.
- ② I believe they are capable of and probably will occasionally attack people and livestock.
- ③ I believe proposed bears will be transplanted problem bears.
- ④ our deer and elk herds are at an all time low. Herds cannot take any more pressure.
- ⑤ How much will this effort COST.
TOTAL.
- ⑥ will this effort require more government employees?
- ⑦ Do you believe no one will be killed by any of these bears.
- ⑧ will signs be posted warning of dangers?
- ⑨ will hunters be allowed in core area of bear?

Your Name: [REDACTED]

Mailing or email address: [REDACTED]

TONASKET WA [REDACTED]

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Over Here we Have The Wolf Problem Already. It is Nowhere settled. Why start up Another disaster where wildlife and possibly humans are killed or maimed. Consider if you will putting the Grizzly on The Olympic Peninsula. They would have more chances There To Get salmon Their Favorite Food supply

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)



OKANOGAN COUNTY

Board of Commissioners

Shellah Kennedy
Commissioner District 1
Ray Campbell
Commissioner District 2
Jim DeTro
Commissioner District 3
Lalefia Johns
Clerk of the Board

March 3, 2015

Dear Mr.

While the meeting of January 12, 2015 represented substantial progress towards complying with our many requests for coordination the grizzly bear proposal you shared comes well after the proposal was crafted and ready for public review. The meeting, therefore, did not comply with the requirements of several sections of the United States Code.

We do appreciate your staff coming to Okanogan County to meet with us and discuss the proposal to introduce the grizzly bear that is under construction. We believe it is best to discuss these important issues in a face to face environment. We renew our request that you do so in the earliest stages of the agency discussions so our concerns can help shape the proposal before it comes out for public review. This practice would comply with the coordination requirements found in statute and lead to a more effective review process. This would further enhance our shared responsibility to best serve the public.

We appreciate the warning that a proposal will be forthcoming but the notice comes too late in the process to fulfill the congressional requirement that agency actions of this sort be coordinated with local government.

Summary:

The proposal to reintroduce the grizzly bear in any location in the State of Washington is contrary to both federal and state law. The listing of grizzly bear under the endangered species act has not been completed therefore it follows that any recovery plan is not legally defensible as well. In addition the recovery plan has never gone through the proper public review in accordance with the ESA and NEPA. This of course means that any proposal to implement a flawed recovery plan based on an incomplete listing is fatally flawed as well. There is only one legal course of action available to USFWS to avoid litigation.

Complete a critical habitat analysis and designation for the grizzly bear in accordance with the ESA. This review must comply with the requirements of NEPA including an analysis of the economic impacts resulting from the critical habitat designations. This analysis must conclude that the habitat so designated is essential to avoid the extinction of the grizzly bear as a species.

After completing the listing of the grizzly bear under the ESA; assuming it is still warranted, a recovery plan must be completed and subjected to public review in

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509.422.7100

123 Fifth Avenue N. * Room 150 * Okanogan * Washington * 98840
TTY/Voice use 800.833.6388

Fax
509.422.7106

accordance with the ES and NEPA. As noted above the review must include an analysis of the economic impacts and the recovery based on the best available science. Any introduction program is premature until the above work has been completed. The current introduction proposal must be withdrawn until the grizzly is properly listed and a recovery plan properly adopted.

It appears to us the proposal to reintroduce the grizzly bear is an effort to reverse engineer critical habitat designations. We anticipate an assertion from USFWS personnel and their supporters that if it is established through introduction that the bear exists in any numbers in any area for any period of time, then it must be in critical habitat. This is circular reasoning at best and fails to comply with the law at any level. The ESA and NEPA are clear in their requirements; the current proposal complies with none of them.

Issue:

The listing of Grizzly Bears as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was never completed in that no analysis of critical habitat was conducted or critical habitat designated.

The Grizzly Bear recovery plan must be part of a completed ESA listing process and be reviewed under NEPA before it can serve as the basis for an introduction plan. The introduction program must first be coordinated with Okanogan County before the initiation of public review and then must be subjected to NEPA.

Discussion:

United States Code

We believe the Grizzly bear recovery plan itself requires review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the proposal must be coordinated with Okanogan County. 42 U.S.C. 4331 (a) statesit is the continuing policy of the Federal Government, in cooperation with State and Local governments, and other concerned public and private organizations, to use all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance, in a manner calculated to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans. It is clear the intent of Congress in adopting NEPA and other U.S. Codes was to create a process by which the actions of Federal Agencies would be coordinated with Local and State governments and would be reviewed for impacts. It is stated in 42 U.S.C. 4332 Cooperation of Agencies: Reports: Availability of Information: Recommendations: International and National Coordination of Efforts: The Congress authorizes and directs that, to the extent possible: (1) the policies, regulations, and public laws of the United States shall be interpreted and administered in accordance with the policies set forth in this chapter, and (2) all agencies of the Federal Government shall: (C) include in every recommendation or report on proposals for legislation and other major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, a detailed statement by the responsible official on:

Telephone
509.422.7100

123 Fifth Avenue N. * Room 150 * Okanogan * Washington * 98840
TTY/Voice use 800.833.6388

Fax
509.422.7106

(iii) alternatives to the proposed action, (iv) the relationship between local short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and (v) and irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources which would be involved in the proposed action should it be implemented. It is our assertion that US Fish and Wildlife has failed to meet its obligations under NEPA to review the land acquisition program being implemented with federal dollars. We further assert that WDFW is simply an agent of USFW and by acting as the eventual purchaser of the property does not relieve USFW of its responsibilities under NEPA.

The Grizzly Bear recovery plan serves as the foundation for the introduction proposal. The recovery plan is very outdated and introduces a framework for regulation that would be in stark contrast to the customs and culture of Okanogan County. Since the recovery plan was never coordinated with Okanogan County or submitted for review in accordance with NEPA there has been no opportunity to gain the coordination that NEPA requires.

In our meeting with USFW personnel it was clear that the recovery plan was "approved" decades ago. It was never reviewed under NEPA. We must disagree with the assertion made by staff that the "approval" of a recovery plan does not constitute an agency decision. The construction of the recovery plan should have been coordinated with Okanogan County and the draft so constructed published for review in accordance with NEPA.

Washington State Statutes

RCW 77.12.035 expressly prohibits transplanting or reintroducing Grizzly Bears from outside the State of Washington. The Grizzly Bear is protected by Washington State law. Historical case law holds that game animal management is within the jurisdiction of the states. While the federal ESA allows federal protection for endangered or threatened species there is nothing in the ESA that gives federal pre-emption on issues of introduction or transplanting of animals.

ESA-Critical Habitat Designation

Section 4 of the ESA outlines the requirement that a critical habitat analysis and designation must accompany all threatened and endangered listings under ESA. The analysis and designation of critical habitat is an essential link between necessary regulation and recovery of the species. Before designating critical habitat careful consideration must be given to economic impacts, impacts on national security, and other relevant impacts of specifying any particular area as critical habitat. An area may be excluded from critical habitat if the benefits of exclusion outweigh the benefits of designation unless the excluded area will clearly result in the extinction of the species.

According to USFWS staff no critical habitat for the Grizzly Bear has been designated so clearly no analysis has been conducted. This in turn means the recovery plan cannot possibly be based on complete and credible science. The creation of an implementation plan involving relocation of grizzlies is therefore subsequently fatally flawed as well.

There is compelling historical evidence that the grizzly bear has never existed in any appreciable numbers in Okanogan County. Those few that have been recorded were incredibly destructive due to their proximity to humans and livestock.

The USFWS must be aware of the requirement to designate critical habitat at the time a species is listed. Under the threat of litigation, the critical habitat designation for the listed bull trout was voluntarily remanded by USFWS for additional analysis. It would seem prudent to avoid the expense and turmoil of litigation by properly analyzing and designating critical habitat for the grizzly.

Economic Impacts

The National Environmental Policy Act requires that any proposal by a federal agency consider the accumulative impacts of said proposal and how those in turn will impact man's ability to live in productive harmony with the natural environment. The Regulatory Flexibility Act requires any rule proposed by a federal agency be analyzed for impacts to the economy of small units of local government as well as small business. Small communities already struggle to maintain acceptable levels of police, fire, emergency medical, criminal justice, and other essential public services. The very people who deliver these services are the same who volunteer for the myriad of community services that keep small communities viable and the citizens safe and productive.

This proposal makes no effort to quantify the impact that increased regulation, whether agency proliferated or as the result of third party lawsuit will have on the economic base of small communities. With small communities already struggling to deliver vital services it is unconscionable to saddle them with an ESA listing based on a very speculative assumption and without a critical and comprehensive effort to assess the potential costs. In this time when the economy nationwide is very weak and the subject of widespread unrest and debate this omission in your proposal seems especially problematic.

Any further erosion of the ability of small communities to provide for the public health, safety, and welfare of its citizens is unacceptable and attacks the social cohesion of these communities. It is this cohesiveness in our communities that is the backbone of America and is the reason these small communities often enjoy the low crime rates, widespread volunteering, and the sense of togetherness that all are in it together that makes them desirable places to live. This proposal, therefore, must make every practical effort to analyze and quantify the economic impacts to small communities.

Community Safety

We have great concerns regarding the potential source of bears for relocation. We suspect the easiest animals to relocate will be bears that have already proven troublesome in other areas due to their acclimation to humans. This likely practice would simply transfer a problem from one location to another creating an unacceptable potential for serious injury or death to persons, destruction of livestock, and damage to property to say nothing of the expense in dealing with the bears.

Conclusion

As noted in our summary on page one this proposal is fatally flawed in several ways. We will not repeat our concerns here. We do insist that you withdraw the proposal to introduce the grizzly bear anywhere in the State of Washington and in particular Okanogan County until you have complied with the requirements of the law including your responsibility to coordinate with us.

We appreciate this opportunity to offer our comments and look forward to your timely response to our request for coordination.

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners



Jim DeTro, Chairman



Ray Campbell, Member



Sheilah Kennedy, Member

Supplement to Comments
Grizzly Bear Introduction
March 4, 2015

These comments supplement those dated March 3, 2015 which were submitted at the Winthrop Open House on March 3, 2015.

Critical Habitat Analysis

Federal staff present at the open house confirmed that critical habitat for the Grizzly Bear has not been designated but it is unclear if the required habitat analysis was completed. Okanogan County will be preparing a request under the Freedom of Information Act for all documents which were created during the habitat analysis as well as the documents supporting the decision to not designate critical habitat.

Peer Review

Federal staff present at the open house stated that the recovery plan; the author of which cites mostly his own work to support his conclusions used this approach as most of the conclusions reached were "common sense". We must conclude based on this remark that the recovery plan has not undergone any scientific peer review. Okanogan County will be preparing a request under the Freedom of Information Act requesting all documents generated during the scientific peer review of the recovery plan and/or any documents supporting the decision to not submit the recovery plan for peer review.

Lead Agency

It was the impression of Okanogan County staff present at the open house in Winthrop that National Parks Service is acting as lead agency in the NEPA process on the introduction proposal. Please clarify who is lead agency for NEPA on this proposal and explain the relationship of the other federal agencies including the actual sponsor of the Grizzly Bear introduction proposal.

Historical Data

Federal staff at the open house in Winthrop made statements that Grizzly Bear once inhabited areas of Washington State in large numbers. They cite historical records as proof of this assertion. We are unable to replicate the information they believe conclusively supports their assertion and in fact have found a great deal of information that supports the exact opposite conclusion. Okanogan County will be preparing a request under the Freedom of Information

Act requesting all scientific and historical documents that support the conclusion that Grizzly Bears inhabited Washington State in any significant numbers.

Sustainable Habitat

Federal staff present at the open house in Winthrop stated the Grizzly Bear is a habitat generalist that can live in a variety of landscapes but their remarks failed to include any details regarding food sources for the bear. Their statements also failed to respond to the question why are bears located north of us not migrating south into Washington if there is sufficient food source to attract and sustain them?

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

Interesting presentation however this is all a smoke screen to keep people uninformed about a back door way to get your North Cascade International Peace Park that was tried to be jammed through in the 1980's & 1990's

If Bears were desirous of living in the area and according to your reports of them being just north of the border I think mother nature would have the migrate here or there over

Your Name: [REDACTED]

Mailing or email address: [REDACTED]

Winthrop WA [REDACTED]

Organization (if applicable): N/A

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

I am in favor of the "No action alternative".

There is "not" a population in the North Cascades in Washington state. ~~off~~. Habitat is not conducive to bear increases or we would have seen more by now.

Safety is another concern. As bears do not or will not have favorable habitat they will be more hungry & aggressive. The bear sampling program proved that there were not any bears because of zero identification of any grizzlies. Again they would have been seen during the past 20-30 years in the Payson wilderness.

Also, closing areas in the North Cascades & limiting access is not desirable & is a favored tactic to protect bears.

I am not in favor of any augmentation or adding of bears to the North Cascades.

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:

Approx 1995/1997 18 years ago (We) were having
the same presentations on "The International Peace Park"
Same Location - Lets Bring in Grizzly Bears etc, etc

18 years ago - your people have retired & replaced with new
~~younger~~ younger ~~people~~ people with new ideas. Except they are
the same old Ideas. !!!

Some times it better to let ~~up to~~ sleeping dog lay.

at this time we can walk our dogs, ride our horses &
enjoy our lands -

you advertise Grizzly Bears - you'll have people from all
over coming here And then

We'll have to pay to go on our land. Can't take the dog or
ride our horses - Trails will be closed

You call this progress & Improvement ???

Make me wonder ~~if~~ What are you thinking ??

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Organization (if applicable): Backcountry Horsemen of WA

☒ Member

☐ Official Representative

☐ (circle one)

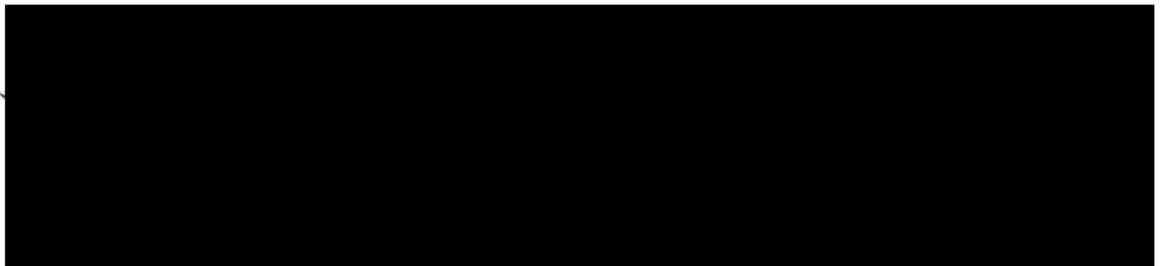
Grizzly Bear Talking Points

Restoration of Grizzly Bears in the North Cascades from concerned citizens of North Central Washington.

- 1. The United States National Park Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have jointly initiated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process study under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) concerning the restoration of Grizzly Bears into the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Area.*
- 2. A news release from the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the EIS includes the terms "active restoration activities", implying the translocation of grizzly bears from outside the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Area. The term "active restoration activities" is not backed up by any studies that indicate that grizzly bears recently roamed the areas in question. What is meant by "active restoration? What is to restore?*
- 3. The North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan directs the federal agencies to conduct habitat suitability and population density studies. As a result of studies and census work done since 1994 it has been found that no Grizzly Bears have been observed anywhere within the Recovery Area. Why is the government spending taxpayer dollars redoing a study already completed? The same said Recovery Plan directs Federal land management agencies administering lands with the Recovery Area to establish*

Bear Management Units (BMU) and further to implement prescribed Standards and Guidelines if grizzly bears are observed within BMU. Why?

- 4. The prescribed Standards and Guidelines outlined in the document could be construed to restrict public access by temporary or permanent road and trail closure(s) in core habitat. The United States Forest Service has within the Washington State portion of the Selkirk Grizzly Bear Recovery Area permanently closed some trails and placed May through November travel restrictions on other trails; thereby establishing a precedence for so restricting public access within Grizzly Bear recovery areas.*
- 5. The Revised Code of Washington 77.12.035 specifically prohibits the introduction or relocation of grizzly bears into the State of Washington.*
- 6. We stands in opposition to action(s) by State or Federal wildlife or land management agencies to restore Grizzly Bears in the North Cascade Grizzly Bear Recovery Area which could result in a reduction or loss of trail access for the recreational use of saddle and pack stock within the Recovery Area”.*



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Park Service
Washington State Fish and Wildlife
USDA Forest Service

March 3, 2015

The following outfitters wish to go on record in support of no Grizzly bears shall be transplanted or reintroduced into the State of Washington. Any consideration should be rejected.

With a state of 7 million residents and recreation demands on the increase any transplanted or reintroduced bears results in the science pointing to failure for these bears. If transplanted or reintroduced several conditions that your agency's have no control over will occur. Shifts in habitat conditions, declining food sources, fire, drought, habituated or orphaned bears. When this occurs the results are not favorable to all involved, as well as impact to other existing wildlife.

Thank You for the opportunity to comment on your proposal.

Sincerely

Early Winters Outfitting, Winthrop Aaron Burkhart

North Cascade Safari, Twisp Ryan Surface

Cascade Wilderness Outfitting Carlton

Highland Stage Co Methow Don Super

Sawtooth Outfitters Paterous Brian Varrelman

North Cascade Outfitters Carlton Jess Darwood

Steiken Outfitters Steiken Cliff Courtney

cc: Okanogan County Commissioners

Feb. 26, 2015

Dear Superintendent,

I have reviewed the North Cascade's Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan and recommend that this area be taken out of the recovery project so as to allow hikers, backpackers and residents in the Stokstad area to still feel safe when experiencing the wilderness. Our family lived full time in Stokstad 1998-2002 and spent considerable time active as a family backpacking the wonderful wilderness.

and that
out of

t
th
to

We felt relaxed and comfortable doing such.

However when backpacking in several of your other recovery zones, we were not at ease, and didn't return to these areas.

I feel introducing grizzlies to the B. Cascades will be a threat to those of us who now roam this wilderness. I understand wanting to protect this bear pop. but do so in your other recovery zones and Alaska!!

Property
encl

Francine

Leave the grizzly Bears where they
are at, Do not Bring the Bears here,

Your Name

Mailing or email address:

Riverside WA

Organization (if applicable):

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

March 10, 2015

Ms. Denise Shultz
National Park Service

Dear Ms Shultz

I wanted to take this opportunity to write you regarding the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's announcement about a study to relocate grizzly bears into Washington State's North Cascades.

In the past 50 years I have been on over 200 climbs in the North Cascades and Glacier Peak Wilderness areas. During those climbs, I have never encountered any signs of grizzly bears. This leads me to believe that these areas are currently safe with regard to grizzly bear attacks; making them wonderful places to hike and climb. Other climbers and hikers I've talked to report the same.

I have also been climbing in the Beartooth Wilderness area, adjacent to Yellowstone National Park, for the past 20 years and have never seen any sign of grizzly bears in that area until 2014. In July 2014, I encountered very fresh grizzly bear tracks in snow at 10,000', less than a mile from where we were camping. For the next 4 days and nights we were very worried and continually looking for grizzly bears. Our concerns were based on the fact that there have been several grizzly bear attacks and killings of park visitors in and near Yellowstone National Park. I'm afraid similar attacks would be very likely in the North Cascades, with its heavily wooded terrain. In such terrain it would be very difficult to spot a grizzly before a close encounter.

At a time when we are trying to encourage our youth to get into the outdoors for healthy exercise, I think it would be irresponsible to create a dangerous new hazard for North Cascades visitors by introducing a new top predator. At a time when the U.S. government is launching a "Youth In The Great Outdoors" campaign and the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) is working to connect our youth with outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and climbing; introducing a dangerous top predator into the North Cascades is irresponsible. The effect on the ecosystem of the North Cascades would be dramatic. Black bear, mountain goat, deer, elk, and marmot populations will all be adversely effected. Human visitor will also be put at risk by the introduction of an extremely dangerous animal that has no fear of humans.

If the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service insists on introducing grizzly bears into another National Park, I would hope they would select one in Washington D.C. rather than Washington State.

Respectively yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Renton, WA [REDACTED]
Founder of Cascade Designs, Inc.

Attachment: Grizzly Attacks

A short history of grizzly attacks:

Note that half of these attacks occurred at night while the victims were asleep in a tent. The grizzlies were not being threatened, and bear spray is of little use in fending off the attacking grizzly when you are in a tent.

July 24, 1980 – Jane Ammerman and Kim Eberly, both 19, attacked and killed by a grizzly during the night at their campsite in Glacier National Park.

Sept. 30, 1980 – Laurence Gordon, 33, attacked and killed at the Elizabeth Lake campsite in Glacier National Park.

June 1983 – Roger May, 23, dragged from a tent during the night and killed in the Gallatin National Forest.

July 1984 – Brigitta Fredenhagen, 25, dragged from a tent during the night and killed in Yellowstone National Park.

October 1986 – William Tesinsky, 38, photographer, was killed in Yellowstone National Park.

Sept. 1, 1987 – Gary Goeden, 29, was missing and his partially consumed remains were found at Natahki Lake, Glacier National Park.

May 17, 1998 – Craig Dahl, 26, last seen alive hiking in Glacier National Park. His partially consumed remains were found three days later.

Oct. 3, 1992 – John Petranyi, 40, attacked and killed by a female grizzly with two cubs on the Loop Trail, Upper McDonald Valley, Glacier National Park.

June 2010 - Erwin Evert killed while hiking in Shoshone National Forest, east of Yellowstone National Park.

July 2010 - Ronald Singer, Deb Freele, and Kevin Kammer all attacked in tents near Yellowstone National Park. Kevin was killed and partially eaten.

July 2011 - Brian Matayoshi killed and eaten while hiking in Yellowstone National Park.

August 2011 - Jack Wallace killed and eaten while hiking in Yellowstone National Park.

August, 2013 - 2 hikers in Yellowstone National Park (names not given by Park Service report) attacked but survived.

Selah, WA

Subject: Personal comments regarding introducing additional Grizzly Bears into the North Cascades.

Let me first say I have long been an avid proponent of wild life and sound wildlife management and have spent more than sixty five years enjoying the outdoors from seashore to high elevations of North America.

I have not been able to review the proposal for additional Grizzly Bears in the North Cascade Mountains and I would like to ask a few questions on this subject.

1. My first concern is for safety of humans and domestic animals that travel the Pacific Crest Trail. There are over 300 humans travel from Mexico to British Columbia every year. Grizzly Bears are the largest carnivore in the continental United States and they have killed humans. What does this plan have that will insure safety for hikers on the PCT trail?
2. If the plan goes forward where will the genetical Grizzly stock come from? Also have there been other re-introductions of Grizzlies in the USA? Have the results been successful?
3. Where will the funding for this plan come from? How much will this cost the American tax payers?
4. Where will funding come from to pay for litigation resulting from the loss of human life or for that matter domestic stock and pets?

Comment:

Would it not have merit to do all we can to better protect the existing Grizzly Bears in the North Cascades to naturally increase their number? I may note that hunting is not allowed for Grizzlies in Washington State and these bears have no known predators other than humans.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

On March 28, 2014 the Forest Service took public comments for the Swauk Pine Restoration Project in the Cle Elum Ranger District. One of the many contributing factors for the project was the North Cascade Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone, which included 23.3 miles of decommissioned roads around the town of Liberty.

I'm sorry I'm not politically correct. The so called decommissioned roads are not in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone. So the public was flat out lied to!

This was not the first time the public has been lied to by agenda-driven advocates working for we the people.

Let us not forget an incident which occurred right here in our own backyard in 2001 involving 3 Forest Service employees, 2 US Fish & Wildlife officials and 2 Washington State Wildlife officials who were all entrusted public employees. These individuals were involved in a scam which included submitting (quote) "unauthorized samples" (unquote) from a captive Lynx Cat and made to look like they were found in the wild. The quoted term was taken from a document dated Dec. 21, 2001 and signed by 19 seated members of the US Congress and addressed to the Honorable Gale A. Norton at the US Department of the Interior.

Again I quote from the same document from US Congress, (quote) "This unethical behavior appears to be a clear example of federal land officials acting in a manner that is less than honest with the American public. This issue further illustrates how vulnerable the public's access rights are to agenda-driven advocates within the federal land management agencies. How can the American people and Congress be assured the public's right to access and our ability to enjoy the great outdoors will be respected by federal land managers and other officials, when wildlife biologists engage in malicious activities that support the closet agenda of the "green community". (unquote)

The method currently in place for the so called neighborhood watch in the Teanaway valley is as follows.... When you see wolves, call your neighbors to let them know so they don't let their pets out. Now I guess the grizzlies need to be added to the neighborhood watch list.

First and foremost, our public officials need to address the seriously degraded health of our forests. The conditions of our forests affect our precious water supplies. The forest fire fuel load is extremely high and all of us are very vulnerable to catastrophic loss from wildfires. Of all things we the people need from our public servants, this should be the number one item on the list, before anything else!! We the people demand that you quit eroding our property rights for your agenda-driven propaganda.

I hope all of you in the audience today realize that it doesn't matter what we the people say. The people who are here to represent the public are going to do what they want to do, which as we well know, will ultimately defy the will of the people. Just like they did in the early 90's when crafting the boundaries for the Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone where I also spoke at a public input meeting held in Olympia; my words fell upon deaf ears there too!

I know from past experience that to speak out publically against you & your true agenda always results in retaliation against me. Let's not forget, vengeance does not belong to man! It belongs to God!

For the record, you are on the wrong side once again. I will continue to pray that God will have mercy on those in Government who continue to defy nature's law or God's law against their fellow man, to enslave us under their commerce and control and to further their evil agenda. In the end, our actions have consequences, and we all have to meet our maker in the end.....whether you believe it or not!!

THANK YOU!

[REDACTED]

UNDER "ISSUES"

Visitor impact - THERE IS PROBABLY GOING TO BE A
FOR GREATER IMPACT ON RESIDENTS RATHER THAN VISITORS

CONSIDERING WHAT "VISITORS" WANT IS REPICULOUS

I'll support A GRIZZLY HERE WHEN SEATTLE
GETS THEIRS.

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

RIVERSIDE, W.A.

Organization (if applicable): _____

HIDEOUT RANCH

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

I feel the no action option is the best. If grizzly wanted to be in the North Cascade Eco system the could have come down from Canada. We see them frequently in Manning park. I do not favor transporting animals into augment a "threatened population" when the could do here on their own if they wanted. Grizzly's are a danger to human & livestock populations. Having more grizzly will be a negative for people who hike & recreate in the area as well as an economic loss to livestock producers who range their animals in the area.

NO Grizzly relocation.

Your Name: [REDACTED]

Mailing or email address: [REDACTED] Riverside WA [REDACTED]

Organization (if applicable): [REDACTED]

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

I being a cattle rancher am afraid the grizzlies will find that killing and eating cows will become a habit. I'm sure they have no ~~regards~~ ^{regards} for humans. There was a reason our ancestors harvested them years ago - and I'm sure it wasn't just for their hides.

I also believe it is just another way to keep the public out of the forest - therefore not paying any attention to what the people that have to live among them think.

This meeting was a total waste of time. I can lead to believe it would be a presentation of what your future plans may be.

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Okanagan Co _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

We are concerned about bringing another predator into our area. The wolves have proven to be somewhat of a nuisance to the local ranchers in regards to cattle and sheep. We believe grizzly bears would be even more so. Access to public lands will be even more limited ^{providing} ~~impacting~~ less areas for hunting and less animals to hunt. This area depends on people being able to recreate which we feel is being denied to us. We are against bringing grizzlies into the area.

Your Name: _____


Mailing or email address: _____

Organization (if applicable): N/A

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)


March 23, 2015

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

Sirs and Madams:

I am pleased to read that the National Park Service, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife are collaborating with open hearings and inter-governmental discussion and planning to determine how to return a viable grizzly bear population to our North Cascades ecosystem. It is important in many ways to reiterate that this is a return of an element that long belonged in that ecosystem. It seems evident that balancing all the natural elements of an ecosystem leads to a healthier whole, needing less intrusive management.

I hope that the full impact of grizzly restoration is studied in the EIS, and not just fragments of the whole — specifically, that the ecological balance, historic importance, and spiritual importance to the area as a whole are studied and considered as a whole in the final reports and recommendations.

The majority of people living in this corner of the Northwest seem to me to be environmentally aware and educated and if consulted would favor returning native plants, ecosystems, and animal life to the the area when that is possible.

There is some talk of transporting bears from other areas to the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone. I am not sure I am in favor of that; I don't know enough about it. From what I have read, I would prefer that natural corridors be preserved for migration between bear populated areas and to ecosystems which would support emigrants. That seems to me to be the way such areas are repopulated safely when existing areas have too many residents for the environment to sustain.

I thank you for acknowledging the importance of informing the public and taking account of our thinking and our opinions in making this decision.

Sincerely,




3/17/15

Superintendent's Office

North Cascades National Park Service Complex

810 State Route 20

Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Dear Superintendent,

I am in full support of grizzly recovery in North Cascades Park. As eco-tourists, my husband and I have traveled to Yellowstone National Park specifically to see wolves and grizzly bears. We saw both magnificent creatures and we spent a lot of money while in Wyoming.

From a monetary viewpoint, while initial recovery costs may be high, ecotourism is very lucrative. As a Washington State resident and frequent user of the North Cascades Park, I would like to see an effort made to augment the grizzly population there.

From a societal viewpoint, I feel we should make every effort to regain a population of animal that was nearly extirpated from its natural habitat. The North Cascades present a prime habitat for grizzlies and the National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service should stand behind the biological opinion for grizzly recovery in the park.

Thank you for receiving my comment,

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Des Moines, WA

[REDACTED]

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

I support restoration of grizzlies in NCE. When you move bears into the North Cascades, the bears should have full protection and not be limited as an experimental population. I do not support Wildlife Services killing these bears under any circumstances. I see no evidence state-sanctioned killings lead to tolerance. It leads to anti-wildlife politics and poaching.

Most vital to enhancement of grizzly bears is boosting federal and state poaching investigations. More officers are needed, as well as the ability to contract with or hire trackers who can tell primary from secondary crime scenes, and read signs poachers leave behind. State-of-the-art technology and equipment is needed for persons performing necropsies, including CT scans.

I support temporary or permanent road or trail closures as needed, particularly to protect mothers and young. Recreationists plan for changes in road and weather conditions as a matter of course, and can accommodate the needs of these animals while still having plenty of good alternatives.

There will always be opposition to changing the status quo, but today there is momentum to become better stewards than we were. We are running out of time with this and other species that are struggling, and we cannot afford to stay mired in the politics of the past. Thank you very much.

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Seattle, WA _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

3/18/15

My wife and I (both 68) enjoy hiking throughout the Pacific NW area. We love getting to know the animals, plants and ecosystems that we hike through. And we have hiked in Grizzly country (Log Glacier NP + Yellowstone). We treasure the idea that these wonderful, now rare animals are still present in parts of the Lower 48. We carry bear spray when hiking with Grizz but have never had to use it. Frankly, "hiking with Grizz" adds to the fun & adventure of the hike.

I strongly support an "augmentation" plan to increase the Grizzly population in the N. Cascade Ecosystem. The habitat is available to support a reasonably sized Grizzly population so I say Do It!

Grizzlies used to live here before we killed them all, so it just makes good, natural sense for us to now help them return.

Good Luck & Thank You

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Seattle, WA _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

That how come you don't listen
to the people that live in the Back
Packs that go into the Cascades.
We don't want the Bears here
take them and plant them in the
Olympics, why do you want them
here? You know somebody eventually
will be killed, and I hope its one
of your kids, grandkids or family
members, not mine. How can anybody
enjoy the Cascades, and hope to see
we don't run in to one. But just
like the wolves, you going to do
it anyway then who has to feed
the Bears when control is needed?
There goes a tax bite again.

Don't do it

Your Name:

Mailing or email address:

Malott W.A.

Organization (if applicable):

Member

Official Representative

(circle one)

Comments regarding the NCE Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS:

Dissappointed that this was not a meeting.

We need a real meeting to be able to speak about our concerns to the entire group.

We need a real meeting with someone to take notes.

I'm pretty ~~convince~~ convinced that the "wet bid," thinks that every body here is a bunch of hicks. We're not!!

Your Name: _____

Mailing or email address: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Member

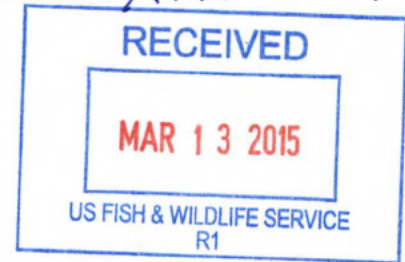
Official Representative

(circle one)

March 9, 2015

Ms. Robyn Thorson, Regional Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Region
911 NE 11th Ave
Portland, OR 97232-4181

RD's Office - Region 1
Received:
MAR 12 2015
USFWS
Portland, OR





Subject: Reintroduction of Grizzly Bears into North Cascades

We are adamantly opposed to reintroduction of grizzly bears into the North Cascades. As experienced hikers of the Pacific Crest Trail (my wife and I have completed all of the Washington section from the Columbia River to the Canadian border) as well as the Wonderland Trail in Mt. Rainier National Park, we have a good deal of experience to back up our position.

1. Grizzly bears will add nothing but danger to the wilderness experience one gets from hiking in the Cascades. These bears are well-known to be much more aggressive toward humans than black bears. We have done just fine without grizzly bears for most of the 20th century, and they were wiped out for a reason – they are dangerous to humans and humans' animal companions and livestock.
2. There is another danger accompanying grizzly bears – despite rules against such activities, humans will carry firearms to try to defend themselves in event of an attack by such bears, and in so doing will not only be in violation of firearm prohibitions in the National Parks but may inadvertently shoot other humans while trying to defend themselves.
3. Where grizzlies have been allowed to come back, Fish and Wildlife Services and the National Park Service have a very poor record of protecting and compensating adjacent farmers/ranchers for losses due to grizzlies. As one who grew up on a farm, I know full well the value of every cow, sheep, and other livestock to each farmer/rancher. You bureaucrats have total disregard for these neighbors who are trying to make an honest living. All you care about is furthering your ideas of returning “wilderness” to its pristine pre-human condition, impossible now with our expanded human population.
4. There is also a legal consideration. Hikers killed or injured by your grizzlies are going to want to sue somebody for damages. That will be paid for by the taxpayer – us, not you personally, even though it is you who are promoting the idea of reintroducing grizzly bears. We taxpayers are tired of being held financially responsible for poor bureaucratic decisions.
5. You have not demonstrated a believable case for necessity, cost-effectiveness, or any other good reason to ~~reintroduce grizzly bears to our wilderness areas. This situation is akin to stamping out and then reintroducing~~ measles or any destructive communicable disease – there is simply no good reason to have it around. We can live with black bears, as they are generally docile enough to not present much danger to those who treasure the outdoors experience. Grizzlies don't add anything to the ecosystem or the wilderness, which we taxpayers own and have a right to use in relative safety.

We the general public haven't employed you wildlife keepers to make our public lands off-limits to all except overly-bold and foolish hikers. Please keep your grizzlies out of our national forests, National Parks, and wilderness areas. We simply don't need or want them.

Sincerely,


Bellevue, WA 

This letter mailed to you as I am unable to attend the March 10, 2015 meeting in Seattle, WA to comment.

Speak up on grizzly bears in the North Cascades

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Options range from doing nothing to transplanting animals

Seattle Times staff

Wildlife agencies are asking the public to weigh in on proposals to restore grizzly bears in Washington's North Cascades eco-

system.

A series of public open-house meetings will be held across the state, beginning in early March. It's the start of a three-year process to weigh a range of options, from doing nothing at all to actively boosting bear numbers by transplanting animals from healthy populations in Canada or the Rocky Mountains.

"The Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan calls on us to fully consider the restoration of the grizzly bear in the North Cascades, and this process will ensure we solicit the public for their input before putting any plan in action," Robyn Thorson, regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said in a news release.

As many as 100,000 griz-

zlies once roamed the western United States, but scientists estimate fewer than 20 now live in the North Cascades.

The last confirmed sighting was in 2010.

A recovery plan completed two decades ago concluded that 200 to 400 animals would constitute a healthy population for the 10,000-square-mile ecosys-

tem in the North Cascades.

While recovery programs for grizzlies have been under way for years in the Rockies, the process in the North Cascades was stalled until late last year, because other species were given higher priority.

Two meetings are scheduled in Western Washington: March 10 in Seattle, from 5-7:30 p.m. at Seattle

Pacific University Berton Classroom 1; and March 11 in Bellingham from 5-7:30 p.m. in the Bellingham Central Library Lecture Room.

Written comments can be submitted through March 26.

More information, including other meeting dates and places, is available at: nps.gov/grizzly

This website does not work —