Official Statement from the Washington Cattlemen’s Association regarding the USFWS/Parks Service EIS on Grizzly Bears

Spring 2017

The Washington Cattlemen’s Association (WCA) strongly opposes the proposed action of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Parks Service to re-introduce Grizzly Bears into Washington State. The WCA does not think it is proper or prudent to reintroduce an apex predator into Washington State. The WCA believes that Grizzly Bear recover and re-colonization must occur naturally with human augmentation.

Grizzly Bear Reintroduction

WHEREAS, the US Fish & Wildlife Service and National Park Service have proposed the North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan, and

WHEREAS, the public process regarding Grizzly Bear reintroduction into Washington State has begun. And

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The WCA recommend the USFWS must honor the Washington State Law from 1995, SSB 5106, Grizzly Bear Management, (RCW 77.12.035). The USFWS’s own regulation specifically 24.4(i) (5)(i) requires the Service to comply with Washington State permitting requirements prior to releasing Grizzly Bears which Washington State can’t give due to RCW 77.12.035 and not reintroduce Grizzly Bears in Washington State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The WCA recommends “no-action” from the Service or the “status quo” policy. If Grizzly Bears re-colonize the North Cascades it should occur without any augmentation from the Service as stated in (RCW 77.12.035) and only allow “natural regeneration”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, If the Service elects to trump current State law (RCW 77.12.035) and appropriate permitting go forward with the translocation of Grizzly Bears, in Washington State, the state should be provided the following requirements and assurances:

a. Required Grizzly Bear recovery and management plan with recovery goals (populations) for delisting and a recovery zone clearly defined
b. Assurances that The Service will not include any State or Private Land in the recovery zone.
c. Assurances that the Service will designate the Grizzly as non-essential experimental (10-j) so management actions and control of problem bears can be taken quickly when needed.
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.