

**Resolution in favor of the
“No Action” option for Grizzly Bear Restoration
in the North Cascades Ecosystem (NCE)**

WHEREAS the National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have requested public input on a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluating options for restoring grizzly bears to the NCE;

WHEREAS the EIS had been terminated by the previous administration’s Secretary of the Interior David Bernhart and no justification was provided to reinstate the EIS process;

WHEREAS the EIS fails to document mitigation costs for citizens within and adjacent to the NCE (loss of range, expensive fencing, depredation of domestic animals and livestock, etc.);

WHEREAS the EIS fails to establish liability or set reparations for damages caused by the grizzly bears to individuals or businesses;

WHEREAS the EIS has exceeded its scope, which is confined to the NCE, but now includes two new areas, Zone 2 and Zone 3, which impact more stakeholders than those associated with the NCE;

WHEREAS the law requires public lands to be managed for multiple use and the 10(j) rule as proposed seems to rely heavily on closures of roads and access;

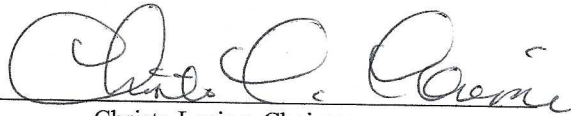
WHEREAS the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife is already prohibited from introducing grizzly bears from out of the area; and

WHEREAS the restoration project is a misuse of the Endangered Species Act because the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*) is not endangered or threatened as a species, due to existing healthy populations in significant parts of its traditional range; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Okanogan County Republican Party endorses and recommends the “no action” alternative in the EIS; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution be transmitted as a comment to the EIS, presented at the public input meeting to be held in Okanogan, sent to Representative Newhouse and Senators Murray and Cantwell, and submitted to the local newspapers.

Adoption attested by



Christa Levine, Chairperson

Date 10.26.2023