

LETTER: Locals support North Cascades grizzly bear restoration

(Targeted at residents of Okanogan and Chelan counties. Residents of other local counties welcome).

To:

Honorable Congressman Dan Newhouse, WA – 4th District

David Bernhardt, Secretary of the Interior

As residents living in communities surrounding Washington's North Cascades, we value our natural heritage and wish to express our willingness to coexist with native wildlife, including grizzly bears.

The North Cascades are an iconic area consisting of nearly 10,000 square miles of contiguous wild lands, anchored by the North Cascades National Park and several large Wilderness areas. We choose to live here because close connections to nature support our quality of life. Whether by farming, hiking, hunting, biking, guiding, outfitting or simply residing in rural and remote places, we purposefully live, work and play near areas that are also home to wildlife. As such, we respect the need to coexist, and are willing to take sensible steps towards sharing these lands with wildlife of all sizes.

As long as grizzly restoration is guided by sound science and community input, including careful management to reduce and resolve potential conflicts, we support restoring grizzly bears to the North Cascades. Our home has been their home for thousands of years, and today they need our help.

Across the lower 48, grizzly bear habitat has shrunk dramatically, and the North Cascades are one of the few remaining places suitable for grizzlies. The North Cascades are ideal grizzly habitat because they are rugged, remote and vast, with an abundant diversity of plant species that provide the bulk of the bears diet. Unfortunately, the North Cascades are geographically isolated from other grizzly habitat by roads and human development. Because of this isolation, natural recovery is infeasible. Biologists have determined that unless we supplement the local population, we are at risk of losing these bears forever.

Restoration proposals under the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Restoration Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) are modest: approximately five bears per year over 5-10 years, with the initial goal of restoring a population of 25 grizzly bears in the backcountry in and around North Cascades National Park. Biologists estimate that it could take up to a century to fully recover grizzly bears in the North Cascades Ecosystem, as grizzly bears reproduce very slowly and cub survival rates can be low.

This plan strikes the right balance between the needs of grizzly bears and the needs and values of local communities. With the right amount of support from our elected and community leaders, the National Park Service and other agencies, as well as public education and outreach, we are fully capable of coexisting with grizzlies as neighbors.

We support recovering our local grizzly bear population through best science and community involvement because it will help keep the North Cascades a natural, beautiful and wild place in which to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

The undersigned residents of Okanogan, Chelan and other counties neighboring the North Cascades.

Name	Business/Organization	City, State	Comments (Optional)
Dave Werntz Ana Ramirez		Twisp, WA Omak, WA	You are supposed to work for all of your constituents . Stop only representing the extraction industry, ranchers and others who sow fear about predators. We are all supported by tourism in the Methow, the majority of whom come here seeking wilderness. Please support keeping wilderness wild! There are non-lethal ways to keep predators from going after cattle and sheep but those who benefit from grazing on our wild lands need to stop trying to only make our wildlands safe for sheep!
Marcia Navajas		Winthrop, WA	In 120% in favor for bear restoration....keep it wild make it right
Todd Daniel Miranda Rose Cays Julia Sanderson Kladnik Julia Seymour	Mrs	Wenatchee, WA Ellensburg, WA Tonasket Custer, WA	
Susan Prichard David Walker Aja L Woodrow	Black Feather LLC	Winthrop, WA Leavenworth Cle Elum, WA	Grizzlies belong in the North Cascades and have no good rpute back. They are a keystone species, and.the North Cascades will offer them excellent habitiat. We are a strong breed around here. We love bears!
Michael Lowry	Copper Mountain Forestry	Wauconda, WA	As an Okanogan County resident, Forester and outdoorsman I am wholeheartedly in favor of grizzly bear reintroduction to the North Cascades. Having lived and worked around grizzlies for several years in central Montana I've come to recognize the ecological and economical benefits of a healthy grizzly bear population. It is my belief that a wild area with low human population such as the North Cascades would benefit greatly from reestablishment of it's apex predator.
Kerri Love		Bellingham, WA	It would be a lifelong dream of mine to know that grizzly habitat has been restored and these majestic animals have returned.

Gail McDonough
Gary & Erin Mundinger
George Wooten
Joe Talbert
Glen Trinka
Darla Reynolds
Tony Case

Wenatchee, WA
Omak WA
Twisp, WA
Winthrop, WA
Chelan, WA
Chelasn, WA
Winthrop

Kristen Smith

Winthrop, WA

I worked for years in Denali National Park with no bear conflict. We MUST restore grizzly's to the area and protect their habitat.

Brian Drye

Winthrop, WA

Return the grizzly to the North Cascades. Their habitat needs priority!

Daniel Karell

Winthrop, Washington

Please follow through with the restoration proposals. They are guided by science and will be a boon for our environment -- and perhaps tourism industry.

Thomas M. Jones

Cozen Oâ€™Connor

Seattle, Wa.

I am strongly in favor of restoring grizzlies to the Cascade Mountain ecosystem

Tim Hennings

Winthrop, WA

Rick Jones

Mazama, Wa

Larina Davis

Mazama WA

Annie Budiselich

Winthrop

Liz Hartley

Mazama, WA

Jon Exall

Winthrop, WA

Ashley W Thrasher

Winthrop

Barbara Zaroff

WA

Kristen-Marie Kirkby

Winthrop

Aydan Quinn

Bellingham, Washington

Daniel Weinstein

Winthrop Washington

Nancie walton

Winthrop, WA

Ken Willis
Deborah Weaver

Carlton, WA
Tonasket WA

Andrew Reichert
Patricia Serie
Richard Honey
John Brueggeman

Winthrop, WA
Chelan, WA
Ephrata
Chelan, WA

Gus Bekker
Leeza Broome
Rebecca Canright
Mark Canright
Amy Hansen
Katherine Jean Baillie
Meghan McCutcheon
D Gail Jordan

Wenatchee, WA
Lake Stevens, WA
Rockport, WA
Rockport, WA
Rockport, WA
East Wenatchee, WA
White Salmon, WA
E. Wenatchee

Bob Taylor

Vancouver, WA

For 50 years I have traveled and peacefully shared the backcountry with grizzly bears in Alaska and British Columbia. I have been close to the bears a few times without any adverse consequence. One time I was within 50 feet of a grizzly in a remote location in British Columbia. This summer I spent a week in grizzly country in the Coast Range of B.C. Other times I have seen grizzlies from a sea kayak in Alaska and camped for weeks in their territory. It's important to understand bear behavior and adhere to safety recommendations, including carrying bear spray, but it's very possible for people and bears to peacefully co-exist in the backcountry. I strongly support the plan to re-introduce them to the North Cascades.

The North Cascades is an ideal place for bringing the grizzly bear back to Washington.

I support Grizzly Bear re-introduction to the North Cascades

110 N Kansas Ave

I was once blessed, a couple of decades ago, to see a North Cascades Grizzly Mom & Cub on the south slope of Glacier Peak. Our natural areas are poorer in the absence of this magnificent apex predator.

Ann Marie Ricevuto
Yvette Goot
Sarah Williams
Heather Findlay
Cynthia Durand
Kim Schnuelle
Kaitlyn Greathouse
Jonathon Kent
Christopher hann
Sharon Ilstrup
Tom Kelley
Michael Adamo
Holly Brown
Nancy Tupper
Kevin Holcomb
Kelly Krieger
Melissa Britton
Hanna Higgins
Brenda Cunningham

Carey DeWitt
Timothy Manns
Mary Ruth Holder
Valerie Kato
Sue Nielsen
MICHAEL WILLIAMS
Stella Day
Dylan
Bailey Brennan
Wendy Anderson
Maureen Finn

Washington
Colville
Winthrop, WA
Okanogan, WA
North Bend, WA
Brewster, WA
Sedro-woolley wa
Everett
Mt Vernon wa
Redmond WA
Winthrop, WA
Blaine
Enumclaw, WA
Lynden WA
Sultan, Washington
Bellingham WA
Monroe
Monroe Washington
Mt Vernon

Omak, WA
Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon
Winthrop, Wa
Mount Vernon, WA
Winthrop, WA
LEAVENWORTH
Enumclaw, wa
East Wenatchee
Tonasket, WA
Duvall, WA

We have so very few truly wild spaces on our planet. A fully functional ecosystem is a gift that future generations can enjoy and learn about themselves and their surroundings.

We owe the grizzlies their rightful habitat.

I fully support bringing the Grizzly back to Washington, and North Cascades National Park!

Without grizzlies, there is no wilderness.

Karen Lawson		Washington	
Karlen Gunderson		Twisp, Washington	Grizzly bears are vital to Nature's balance and diversity. We should be encouraging them, not eliminating them.
Tina Hurley		Monroe, Wa	Please restore grizzlies to the North Cascades and I will continue to hike there and will do everything possible to take into consideration their presence just as I consider cougars, rattle snakes, etc.
Linda Speck		Carlton, WA	
Carol Sullivan		WA	
Kathy Stockbridge		Burlington	As a frequent hiker in the North Cascades, enjoying the wild life is a big part of the experience. Grizzly bears are a part of this habitat.
Diane Studley		Mount Vernon	As a former longtime resident of rural Chelan County I am no stranger to living with wildlife. They were here before us and it is our duty to preserve their environment. In cases where we have eliminated them from areas they previously inhabited, it is only right we attempt to re-establish their habitat and if necessary, re-introduce them.
Barbara Tuttle		Mount Vernon	
Marilyn J. Miller		Mt. Vernon, WA	Grizzlies have been an integral part of the North Cascades ecosystem for thousands of years. It's time to bring them back.
John Day		Sedro Woolley, WA	
Karen Beckner	Windermere/Skagit Valley	Mount Vernon	
Anna Seltzer		Twips, WA	
Gustav Bekker		Wenatchee	I support reintroduction of Grizzly Bears to the North Cascades

Martha and Bob Hall
Gretchen Klika
Pamela VourosCallahan

Anacortes, WA
Mount Vernon, WA
Granger

We live in Skagit County, not far from the North Cascades where we camp and hike. We often visit Yellowstone so we can see wildlife.

If more wildlife such as grizzlies and wolves lived in the North Cascades we would do a lot less driving and spend our money instead

in WA State. Far more people in WA State enjoy wildlife watching than

any other user group, far more than hunting, and we bring in far more money to local communities. (Only 2.42 % of WA residents buy hunting licenses.)

Kristofer Borgias

Winthrop

I support efforts to protect grizzlies in the North Cascades as well as roadless areas in NE Washington. I especially support efforts to enhance habitat areas and manage current unprotected roadless areas to protect habitat where there is less chance of adverse human/grizzly conflicts.

3 million visitors to Glacier NP, 4 million to Yellowstone.
Hello!

Eric Burr
Nina Hadley
Alison Naney
Mary Ratermann
CB Thomas
Jim Asa

Conservation NW

Goats Beard Mountain Supplies
Sierra Club

Mazama
Winthrop, WA
Mazama, WA
Burlington Washington
Mazama, WA
Washington

Laura Gunnip

Twisp, WA

Please start the slow process of restoring the grizzly habitat in the North Cascades. My family is in favor of coexisting with grizzlies bear our local community. Thank you!

Carson Gunnip Hunter

Twisp, WA

Please start the slow process of restoring the grizzly habitat in the North Cascades. My family is in favor of coexisting with grizzlies bear our local community. Thank you!

Stella Gunnip Hunter
Cameron Green
Phil Millam
Jennifer Schumacher

Willow Brook Farm

Twisp, WA
Carlton, WA
Winthrop, WA
Winthrop, WA

Please start the slow process of restoring the grizzly habitat in the North Cascades. My family is in favor of coexisting with grizzlies bear our local community. Thank you!

Lorah Super
Bethany
Steph Williams
Bob Naney
Robin Baire
Wendy Anderson
Jack A Stanford
Nigel Hunter
Hannah Dewey
Patrick Button
Janelle Delfino
Karen L. Bown

North Cascades Mountain Guide

Methow, WA
Twisp
Twisp, WA
Winthrop, WA
Carlton, WA.
Tonasket, WA
Twisp, Washington
Twisp WA
Cashmere, WA
Cashmere, WA
Twisp, WA
Twisp, WA

I am mother, wife, farmer and former outfitter-guide in this region. I make my home close to wild lands and frequently recreate in the Wilderness. I believe it's my duty and responsibility as a citizen living close to critical habitat for endangered wildlife, to do everything in my power to accept and learn to live with measures that protect the habitat and the species. I support Grizzly reintroduction to the North Cascades ecosystem.

Get the bears back in the North Cascades!!

I support the reintroduction of grizzly bears.

This is important.

Humanity, in its stupidity, has always, for its own purposes, killed nature. Is it realistic to conclude that: as the human population increases, then humanity must prey more strongly on nature to ostensibly fill the needs of more and more people. Let us send a strong signal that we must leave nature to nature and either learn how to reduce the human population or learn how to heal the Earth to fill the needs of an increasing population.

In any case, grizzly bears are a part of nature and we humans are responsible to allow nature to persist. This means that we must make room for nature and include grizzly bears in that milieu. Humanity is at the point in its march into the future that it must save itself or collapse. If humanity collapses then nature will grow and prevail. If, instead, humanity allows nature to increase then humanity will save, not only nature, but itself as well.

I support the reintroduction of this apex species back into its historic habitat. As a frequent recreationist in the Cascades and someone who is raising small children here, I am not at all concerned about any safety issues or threat to our lifestyle by the grizzly, and on the contrary am excited to know that these creatures will once again inhabit the high mountains which provide such a great environment for them to thrive.

We can live with Grizzly Bears as the intelligent and forward thinking people of Montana, Alaska, Idaho and Canada have been for a very long time. We need to offer a little more courage and creativity to return an iconic and critical member of the ecosystem to the North Cascades! Washington's residents are not all in agreement with Dan Newhouse nor his fear based rhetoric.

Arnold Byron

Mount Vernon

Sam Naney
Fred Runkel

Mazama, WA
TWISP

Alexa Whipple
Liz Walker

Methow Beaver Project Twisp
Methow Valley Citizen's Council winthrop, wa

Steve Kern	Twisp, Wa	Strongly support getting grizzlies back in the North Cascades system.
DeeAnn Kirkpatrick	Winthrop, Wa	
Rich Krenkel	Spokane Washington	I have travel and hiked in the North Cascades with my son and would love to know I would have the possibility of see a grizzly there. I think the problems of grizzly's there are over blown. Humans and grizzly's can easily co-exist.
Paula Mackrow	Twisp wa	
Sherrie L Krown	Winthrop WA	
Rebekah Jensen	Twisp, WA	I support Alternative D, the expedited restoration plan. My property adjoins the Okanogan National Forest, and I fully expect to have grizzly bears in my yard someday, should the restoration effort be successful. While this makes me a bit apprehensive, I believe, unequivocally, that restoration is the right thing to do.
David Caldwell	Mazama, wa	Yes, restore the North Cascades ecosystem including primary predators, grizzly bears.
David Ford	WA	I have lived amongst the bears for most of my life in Alaska. I would like to have them in the North Cascades.
Miles Titland	Lake Stevens	
Carolyn Loren	Winthrop, WA	I've lived in Wyoming and Alaska and have safely encountered grizzly bears while hiking and backpacking. People and livestock can co-exist with grizzlies by following common sense measures that people in other northern states have used.
Stephen Ralph	Winthrop	
Eric Portmann	Twisp, WA	
christopher hammer	Twisp, WA	
Joy Hay	Arlington Washington	
Zachary	Upper	
Kameron Smith	Winthrop, WA	

Nancy Farr
Amitav Dash

Fire Adapted Winthrop Program Winthrop, WA
Guelph, Ontario

Human well-being depends on ecosystem health.
Ecosystem health depends on biodiversity, and keystone
native species such as grizzly bears are essential to diversity.
Support this conservative conservation plan. Thank you
from me, our children, and future generations.

Sue Comis
Madelyn Hamilton
Kristen-Marie Kirkby
Tova Portmann-Bown
Marlene Firth
Penelope Varn
Sara Mounsey

Hardbitten Ranch

Tacoma, Washington
Twisp, WA
Winthrop, WA
Twisp, WA
Twisp, WA.
Twisp, WA
Twisp, WA

All species are important to protect, especially the
predators, who help in the balance of the ecosystem. These
are a magnificent species that I have personal experience co-
existing with in Alaska. Please protect them.

Gary Koehler
Blue Bradley
Emily Post
Saige Phelps
Emily Post
Kim Romain Bondi
Steve Bondi
Kim Odell
Jeanne White
Kelleigh Mcmillan
Darcy Gray
john crandall
Heather Patrick
Steven Berg
Raechel Youngberg

Winthrop Rink

Wenatchee
Winthrop, WA
Twisp, WA
Twisp washington
Twisp, WA
Winthrop
Winthrop. Wa
Twisp, WA
Winthrop Washington
Twisp, Wa
Winthrop, WA
WINTHROP
Mazama, WA
Mazama, WA
Carlton, WA

concerns for potential threat to human safety from grizzly
reintroduction have nothing to fear but fear itself; check the
facts!

Keep it wild! Diversity is the only way.
I'm in favor of grizzly reintroduction

Heide Andersen
Maisy Shaw
Joshua Porter

Winthrop, WA
Twisp, Washington
Twisp, Wa

I strongly support the reintroduction of grizzly bears into the North Cascades in a manner that is based on science and on a timeline that works to both achieve the goal of a self-sustaining population while taking human co-existence into account. An adaptive management plan to address this process will be very important with the complexity of the program.

gerald bell
Kevan Coffey
Josh Gewirtz

Family Health Centers
Mid Valley Hospital

Mazama, wa
Carlton, WA
Carlton, WA

I spent most of my adult life in Alaska and have done many hikes and backpacking trips in bear country. Most incidents resulted from getting too close or between a sow and her cubs or accidentally coming near a recent moose kill. Deaths were very uncommon, maybe one a year and black bears and moose were much more dangerous.

Anthony Wheeler

Crack in the Concrete LLC

Carlton, WA

Grizzly Bears are both rightful heirs of this landscape as well as vital participants in the overall health of the North Cascades EcoSystem. As a 20 year resident and small business owner of in the Methow Valley I look forward to the day when Grizzly Bears will roam freely in the North Cascades as they did for thousands of years before us. I submitted written comments last year, but wish to reiterate my support for the agencies to restore the grizzly to the North Cascades.

Kelly Bush
Maggie Coon
Anne James

Winthrop, WA
Twisp
Winthrop WA

Grizzly bears are both part of our natural heritage, and an important species in the ecological health and history of our region. Let them come back!

Mark Wolf-Armstrong
Ric Iribarren
Tristan J Van Stirum

Twisp, WA
Carlton, WA
Winthrop

Jodie tremberth
Rebecca Heffron
Denee Scribner
Matthew Risen
Dan
Joe Perrault

Leavenworth, WA
Cashmere
WA
East Wenatchee, Washington
Wenatchee, Wa
Darrington

Grizzly bears are an important part of the "balance of nature." The restoration of wolves in Yellowstone had profoundly positive effects on all aspects of the environment, flora, as well as fauna. Well-managed restoration of grizzly bears will have the same positive effect on our natural areas. Please don't let fear drown out the facts.

Karlen Gunderson

WA

Return these beautiful creations to where they belong here in the pacific northwest

Carolyn Valenti-Allen
Ella Hall
Allison Ciancibelli

Tonasket
Winthrop, wa
Twisp, Wa

I support an aggressive Grizzley reintroduction.
I support Grizzly reintroduction, and believe we should follow an aggressive option vs. a cautious one.
I am an 8th grader at the Liberty Bell High School, and have grown up in the Methow Valley. I support Grizzly reintroduction.

Jeremy Newman

Twisp, Wa

Ila Newman
Carol K Johnson

Twisp, Wa
Winthrop

Bring back the grizzly!
Grizzlies are part of a healthy ecosystem in the North Cascades. Those who choose to live in their midst must be respectful of their power (and their appetites).

Meryle A. Korn

Bellingham, WA

Grizzly bears were an icon of the North Cascades and the government must restore them by law. From what I've read and understand, I do not believe the low numbers proposed for recovery over a long period of time and in such a large section of public land will be harmful to fruit growers and ranchers or hikers in any significant way.

Olivia Rose
Julia Bianchi
Jacob Gates

River Run Inn

Winthrop, WA
Chelan, Wa.
Winthrop, WA

Carly Reiser

Winthrop, WA

Keri Moore

Winthrop, WA

Happy to support grizzlies in my neighborhood mountains!
I strongly support restoring the grizzly bear population in
the North Cascades National Park.

Cathy Habermehl

Twisp, Wa

Jessica Kelley

Mazama, WA

Predator keystone species are vital to the health of
ecosystems. Move over humans; we need to share this one
world!

Susie Wolff

Okanogan

Charles T Brushwood

Omak

Carly

The Evergreen State College

Olympia, WA

I live and recreate near and in the North Cascades and I
support Alternative C for rejuvenating grizzly bears in the
North Cascades

Jennifer molesworth

Twisp,WA

I believe it is so important to our human future to act as
good stewards of the land and of the wildlife that lives
there.

John Hurd

Winthrop, WA

David LaFever

Carlton, WA

JOHN A QUERIN

YAKIMA