



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHELAN COUNTY
STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
400 DOUGLAS STREET, SUITE #201
WENATCHEE, WA 98801
PHONE (509) 667-6215 FAX (509) 667-6599

CATHY MULHALL
County Administrator
cathy.mulhall@co.chelan.wa.us

CARLYE BAITY
Clerk of the Board
Carlye.baity@co.chelan.wa.us

December 13, 2022

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

RE: 2022 North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Striker:

Chelan County has reviewed the Notice of Intent from the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare a Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. We have previously provided extensive comments opposing grizzly bear reintroduction into our local communities. We continue to oppose grizzly bear reintroduction given the likely negative impacts to public safety, economic development, recreation opportunities and the overall livelihood of our rural communities. The federal agencies leading this effort have generally failed to address these concerns and have failed to engage in any meaningful way Chelan County and other neighboring counties in the proposed grizzly bear restoration area.

NPS and USWFS appear to acknowledge the inherent dangers of reintroducing grizzly bears to our local communities in the current proposal; however, instead of taking pause, they have chosen to accelerate the EIS effort. The "10j" proposal is not well-defined. It identifies the need for grizzly bear management options for "certainty, safety and control for the region." However, it then goes on to suggest reintroduction. In a time when collaboration and partnerships are the norm for restoration efforts, the lack of coordination and consultation with local communities on this effort, as well as the failure to address rural community concerns, is disappointing.

Federal agencies have an obligation to coordinate and consult with local governments, specifically county governments, to ensure consistency between federal and local planning efforts and policies. There has been no

KEVIN OVERBAY
1st District
kevin.overbay@co.chelan.wa.us

BOB BUGERT
2nd District
bob.bugert@co.chelan.wa.us

TIFFANY GERING
3rd District
tiffany.gering@co.chelan.wa.us



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHELAN COUNTY
STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
400 DOUGLAS STREET, SUITE #201
WENATCHEE, WA 98801
PHONE (509) 667-6215 FAX (509) 667-6599

CATHY MULHALL
County Administrator
cathy.mulhall@co.chelan.wa.us

CARLYE BAITY
Clerk of the Board
Carlye.baity@co.chelan.wa.us

effort to engage us in this current effort, and the EIS timeline appears to fast-track the effort toward a predetermined outcome. This board also questions the legality of the effort, given Washington State law states, "Grizzly bears shall not be transplanted or introduced into the state (RCW 77.12.035)." We are concerned the current approach appears to run counter to local and state policies and laws.

We request that you immediately suspend the current effort and consult with us and other counties in the proposed grizzly bear reintroduction area to discuss our concerns.

BOARD OF CHELAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



KEVIN OVERBAY, CHAIRMAN



TIFFANY GERING, COMMISSIONER



BOB BUGERT, COMMISSIONER

KEVIN OVERBAY
1st District
kevin.overbay@co.chelan.wa.us

BOB BUGERT
2nd District
bob.bugert@co.chelan.wa.us

TIFFANY GERING
3rd District
tiffany.gering@co.chelan.wa.us