



October 27, 1997

RECEIVED BY U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY COORDINATORS OFFICE.

Grizzly Bear Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PO Box 5127
Missoula, MT 59806

NOV 05 1997

The mission of the Idaho Wildlife Federation is to promote citizen support of the conservation of Idaho's wildlife and natural resources for fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreation benefiting future generations.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the DEIS for Grizzly Bear Reintroduction to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area. I am writing on behalf of the Idaho Wildlife Federation as Chair of our Endangered Species Committee. The Idaho Wildlife Federation is Idaho's oldest and largest statewide conservation organization. Our 5000 members and affiliated club members are comprised of individual sportsmen and sportswomen from around Idaho and the region. IWF has 20 affiliated clubs from around Idaho, from the Sawtooth Wildlife Council and the Idaho Herpetological Society to the Bonner County Sportsmen's Assoc. and the Nampa Bow Chiefs.

The Idaho Wildlife Federation supports Alternative #1, the Citizen Management Alternative.

Any successful species recovery plan requires at least tacit approval by those people living in and around recovery areas. The Citizen Management Plan, negotiated by timber companies, workers and conservationists, gets everybody at the table, and broadens public participation in government. We believe that the Citizen Management Plan has the potential to do more than help recover grizzly bears. As an example of citizen empowerment - the opposite of widely perceived "heavy handed" federal regulations - we believe it can help increase public support for species recovery in general and demonstrate the flexibility and effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act.

We would like to add these recommendations for the final rule, if issued for Alternative #1:

A. The Citizen Management Committee (CMC) and the public should have assurances that once begun, grizzly bear recovery will be adequately funded for the entire process to de-listing.

B. The CMC should be given full authority to recover grizzly bears, as long as its decisions and actions ultimately lead to recovery. There must remain a check on the authority of the CMC, however, to prevent obstruction or sabotage of the ultimate goal of recovery. This oversight could lie with the Interior Secretary or an independent panel of scientists.

C. The final rule should encourage participation by more than just the CMC members.

D. A strong public education component must be a part of Alternative #1 and must be sufficiently funded.

We at the IWF admire the leadership demonstrated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Wildlife Federation, Defenders of Wildlife, Resource Organization on Timber Supply, and the Intermountain Forest Industry Association in bringing the Citizen Management Plan to this stage.

Thank you for your effort.

Sincerely,

David R. Langhorst (handwritten signature)

David R. Langhorst

AFFILIATED CLUBS

Ada County Fish & Game League

Boise Valley Fly Fishermen

Boise Valley Wooly Buggers

Bonner County Sportsmen's Association

Citizens Against Poaching

Coeur d'Alene Wildlife Federation

Gem State Fly Fishers

German Shorthair Pointer Club of Idaho

Idaho Bird Hunters, Inc.

Idaho Chapter, National Wild Turkey Federation

Idaho Conservation Officers Association

Idaho Herpetological Society

Idaho State Bowhunters

Latah County Wildlife Association

Nampa Bow Chiefs

North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association, Snake River Chapter

Poachers Club

Southeastern Idaho Rod & Gun Club

Sawtooth Wildlife Council

Trout Unlimited, Ted Trueblood Chapter

Twin Falls Wildlife Federation

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

