



# Water Cooperative

## Bitterroot Valley-Mt

*Water Coop*  
 % President: Brian Langton  
 2994 Mittower Rd  
 Victor, Mt. 59875

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

NOV 21 1997

Nov. 10, 1997

The directors of the Bitter Root Valley Water Coop represent 1200 plus-Bitter Root farms, ranches and homes that irrigate about 30,000 acres with water originating in the Bitter Root National Forest and Bitter Root Selway Wilderness areas. These irrigators are reservoir owners that hold private property easements dating from the Federal Laws of 1866 and 1891. The reservoirs stretch from Tamarack and Tin Cup Lakes south of Darby to Carlton Lakes south of Lolo. Each of these reservoirs as well as our farms, ranches and homes lay within the proposed Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone.

1

Introducing more Grizzly bears to the Bitter Root Selway is totally unacceptable to us in view of the regulations and restricted access that will be imposed on our reservoirs. There is also the danger of maintaining our reservoirs with an increased Grizzly bear population.

The directors object to the EIS as proposed. We support Alternative 3:  
**the NO Grizzly bear Alternative.**

2

We believe that the Grizzly bear should be de-listed as your own conservative figures show some 800-1000 Grizzlies in Montana. We would also like to see these decisions on bears for Montana turned over to the state of Montana.

Sincerely,  
 Directors of Water Coop

*Brian Langton*  
*Ken Cleveland*  
*Wayne Olson*  
*Jack Bunker*  
*Harvey J. Hackett*