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NEWS RELEASE

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EASTERN IDAHO MEN CHARGED WITH KILLING GRIZZLY CUB

Tim L. Brown and Brad Hoopes were arraigned this morning before U.S. Magistrate Judge Mikel H. Williams at the federal courthouse in Pocatello, charged with the misdemeanor killing of a grizzly bear cub in the Sawtelle Peak area on September 23, 2002.

The grizzly bear is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act and is protected from illegal take.

Brown, 38, of Island Park, and Hoopes, 36, of St. Anthony, entered pleas of not guilty to the charges. Trial was set for December 5 at 1:30 p.m. in front of Chief U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill at the federal courthouse in Pocatello.

In a related incident, Kentucky bow hunter Dan Walters pled guilty in January 2005 to the misdemeanor killing of an adult sow grizzly in the Sawtelle Peak area on September 22, 2002. He was ordered to pay \$15,000 in restitution and had his hunting privileges revoked for two years.

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Hoopes and Brown are also charged with destroying the radio telemetry collar worn by

the bear Walters killed.

The seven-year-old sow shot by Walters, bear F364, was radio collared in the fall of 1999. She gave birth to the female cub in the spring of 2001, and this was her first successful attempt to raise offspring. The two bears routinely traveled between Yellowstone National Park and the Sawtelle peak area in Idaho. Neither had been involved in any human encounters.
