

From: [Bean, Michael](#)
To: [Robert Aland](#)
Subject: Re: GRIZZLY BEARS - YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM POPULATION
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2015 9:17:26 AM

Thank you for your email.

On Thu, Mar 12, 2015 at 9:59 PM, Robert Aland <rhaland@comcast.net> wrote:

Dear Mr. Bean:

I take the liberty of transmitting to you below a recent article relating to grizzly bears, and I call your attention to the highlighted sentence in the article in which Christopher Servheen, FWS's Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator, is reported as saying that there are 1,000 grizzly bears in the Yellowstone Ecosystem.

That number is significantly inflated, as is commonly known. The statement appears to have been made in the context of FWS's, and particularly Mr. Servheen's, continuing campaign to maximize the number of Yellowstone grizzly bears in anticipation of delisting.

That campaign began with FWS's issuance of the "Draft Revised Supplement: Revised Demographic Recovery Criteria for the Yellowstone Ecosystem" to the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan, as approved by Noreen E. Walsh, Regional Director, FWS, on February 19, 2013, and announced as available to the public in the Federal Register on March 22, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 17708). The new counting method merely substituted one mathematical formula for another in order to produce a higher number.

I believe that Department of the Interior senior management must direct Mr. Servheen to stop the campaign of misinformation about the number of grizzly bears in the Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Robert Aland
Winnetka, IL
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County may sue to stop grizzly restoration

[Dan Wheat](#)

Capital Press

Published: March 6, 2015 9:03AM

OKANOGAN, Wash. — Okanogan County commissioners are exploring the possibility of a lawsuit to prevent the U.S. Department of Interior from restoring grizzly bears to the North Cascades.

"We think we have uncovered enough of where they did not follow procedure and process.

They're no different than their commander in D.C. running rogue with his pencil and phone. Yes, Obama," said Jim DeTro, Okanogan County commissioner.

The county was talking to state legislators in Olympia about its options after the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service held open houses in Winthrop on March 3 and in Okanogan on March 4 to help them determine whether to take an active role in grizzly restoration. It could include moving grizzlies into the North Cascades from other places in the U.S. and Canada.

Commissioners strongly oppose restoration and say a majority of county residents do. Ranchers, back country horsemen, ATV users, hobby farmers and rural residents don't want another apex predator to worry about, DeTro said.

About 100 people attended the open house in Okanogan, he said.

"It's a very, very disgruntled public. They're not happy with the process. It was set up so you really couldn't comment. It's divide and conquer. They diffuse the situation as best they can so they can check the box when they go back to wherever they go and say yes we had a meeting in Okanogan County," DeTro said.

There was no general forum for oral presentations by federal employees or public comment. Instead, multiple stations were set up where people could get information and interact with USFWS, NPS and state employees and then put written comments in a box.

"Dal Dagnon (a Tonasket rancher) took a mic and gave them a pretty good talking to," DeTro said.

"These people shove this stuff at Okanogan County as a poster child and target Okanogan County for everything they can think of and Okanogan County is fed up," he said.

A March 5 open house in Wenatchee was the same format with no oral presentations or comments. A couple dozen people attended.

This is the scoping phase from which alternative plans will be developed with a final decision on whether to actively pursue restoration made jointly by NPS and USFWS in three years, said Ann Froschauer, USFWS spokeswoman.

While grizzlies are more plentiful in other parts of Canada and the U.S., a small population lives on the Canadian side of the North Cascades and ventures into Washington state, although there have been no confirmed sightings in Washington since 1996, said **Chris Servheen, USFWS grizzly bear recovery coordinator from Missoula, Mont.**

"What we would like to do is improve their status, focusing on remote areas of the Pasayten Wilderness and North Cascades National Park," he said.

The agencies want to keep them in remote areas and bears who endanger people or livestock would be relocated and if they re-offend a second time, destroyed, Servheen said. Problem bears from other areas "absolutely" would not be brought into the North Cascades, he said.

The North Cascades ecosystem is about 10,000 square miles and could safely handle 200 bears, he said. **The Yellowstone ecosystem is about the same size and has 1,000 grizzlies that largely stay away from people, he said.**

But Doug England, a Chelan County commissioner, said it will be difficult for the same area to be used by grizzlies and hikers.

"We are part of their food chain," England said. "Hikers and sleeping bags are the soft tacos of the grizzly world."

Chelan County commissioners sent a letter of opposition to the agencies, he said. It was interesting, he said, to see state Fish and Wildlife personnel at the meeting when state law prevents the state from spending money on grizzly bear recovery.

Any lawsuit likely would boil down to whether the state overrides the federal government in recovery jurisdiction, he said.

Evidence grizzlies lived in Washington is all anecdotal, not historical data, he said.

"This is serious in Stehekin. These are areas we hike with our grandchildren," he said, adding the concerns of people whose lives and livelihoods will be impacted should carry more weight than those who don't.

Open houses were set for Cle Elum March 9, Seattle March 10 and Bellingham March 11. Comments will be received through March 26 at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/NCEG>.

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