



WILDERNESS WATCH

Keeping Wilderness Wild

October 24, 2019

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Superintendent's Office

North Cascades National Park Complex

810 State Route 20

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RE: Draft Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

Sent via US Mail and via electronic submission to:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/grizzlydeis>.

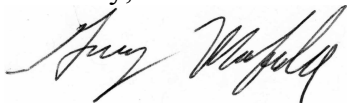
Dear Superintendent,

These are supplemental comments from Wilderness Watch on the draft Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for grizzly translocation into the US portion of the North Cascades Ecosystem (NCE). Wilderness Watch is a national wilderness advocacy organization, headquartered in Missoula, Montana. Wilderness Watch is dedicated to the protection and proper administration of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Since the time of our last comments, the British Columbia government has ended the grizzly hunt throughout the province. This changed condition makes natural recover more likely. We addressed components of a natural recovery alternative in our earlier comments. Such an alternative is distinctly different than the no-action alternative because it would undertake a cooperative management approach between the US and Canada and take actions that would facilitate grizzly movement. We urge you to refer to our earlier comments.

Also, this year the US Fish and Wildlife Service provided solid evidence of at least three separate grizzlies in the Bitterroot Ecosystem in Idaho this year. The documentation and photos are attached. The photos, with one possible exception, have been determined to be grizzlies. As the DEIS explains, natural recovery is the default option for the Bitterroot Recovery Area. Because of the grizzlies that moved into Idaho summer and fall, natural recovery appears to be in its early stages in this area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Macfarlane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being more prominent than the last name "Macfarlane".

Gary Macfarlane
Board Member

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