

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 6, 2023

Charles F. Sams  
Director, National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Martha Williams  
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Sams and Director Williams:

We write in regards to your agencies' draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and accompanying 10(j) proposal under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on the Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Grizzly Bear in the North Cascades Ecosystem in Washington State. Due to seasonal weather concerns, we are requesting a 180-day extension on the public comment periods for the draft EIS and proposed 10(j) rule. Additionally, we also request two additional **in-person** meetings in the communities directly impacted by this proposal so your agencies can hear their concerns directly.

Residents of northern Washington have long voiced their concerns about the introduction of grizzly bears into the Northern Cascades Ecosystem; the impact of introducing an apex predator near their families, wildlife, and livestock would be devastating. In fact, in 1995, the Washington State Legislature declared that "grizzly bears shall not be transplanted or introduced into the state."<sup>1</sup> Despite this, the federal government is once again circumventing state law and attempting to move forward with the introduction of grizzlies.

These constituents deserve additional time and opportunities to voice their concerns to the draft (EIS) and proposed introduction from your agencies. Although it seems clear that your agencies have already reached a decision on introduction, the Washingtonians impacted by this decision deserve adequate time to review and respond to both proposals. Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,



---

Rep. Dan Newhouse (WA-04)  
Chairman, Congressional Western Caucus



---

Rep. Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (WA-05)

---

<sup>1</sup> Grizzly Bear Management, c 370 § 1 (1995). <https://lawfilesexxt.leg.wa.gov/biennium/1995-96/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/5106-S.SL.pdf?cite=1995%20c%20370%20%20C2%A7%201>

Matt M. Rosendale

---

Rep. Matt Rosendale (MT-02)

Russ Fulcher

---

Rep. Russ Fulcher (ID-01)

Cliff Bentz

---

Rep. Cliff Bentz (OR-02)

Harriet M. Hageman

---

Rep. Harriet M. Hageman (WY-AL)