

Date: February 28, 2017

Subject: DEIS Grizzly Bears North Cascades

North Cascades National Park Superintendent

810 State Route 20

Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Dear NEPA Team

Attached are my comments regarding the DEIS Grizzly Bear Recovery North Cascades.

I was fortunate enough to work for the Gallatin National Forest for almost 20 years. The Gallatin NF borders Yellowstone National Park to the North and West. For the first 15 years; I inventoried, mapped, and published soils--vegetation--landforms Soil Survey Gallatin National Forest, Montana 1982. Most of my summer and falls were spent in the field. I became quite good at identifying key foraging habitats for bears. The last 5 years were spent as a line officer on a ranger district and some of my time was devoted to implementing grizzly bear recovery regulations.

During my time on the Gallatin NF, I had numerous encounters with black bears and about a dozen close-up encounters with grizzlies. Of my grizzly bear encounters, three (3) resulted in full out charges. The charge from a grizzly sow with cubs was the most memorable. I was never threatened by black bears or even sows with cubs. These black bears were hunted and had a respectable fear of people and definitely avoided any contact with

humans. From my personal experience, grizzly bears were and remain unpredictable if surprised within close range.

The last 12 years of my career with the US Forest Service was spent on the Wenatchee & Okanogan National Forests. I was a program manager and spent a lot of time reviewing and editing NEPA documents.

I have reviewed the Draft EIS Grizzly Bear Recovery in the North Cascades. It became quite clear that the NEPA Team and writer/editors of this document are proponents for augmenting grizzlies into the North Cascades and favor Alternative C. From my experience, the best EIS documents are those that team members had opposing views; and assessments were challenged & debated before there was consensus.

If Grizzly Bear Recovery in the NC is successful, I believe that the most likely impact of Alternatives B, C or D will be the effect on **backcountry dispersed recreation**. Therefore, I am providing some constructive criticism relating the likely effects on **backcountry dispersed recreation** which I find generally lacking in the assessments for this DEIS.

Sincerely,

Carl Davis