

## Yakima County Farm Bureau

**Comments: North Cascades Grizzly Restoration Plan, Draft EIS**

**Submitted: October 23, 2019 10:17 PM Mountain Time**

**This comment is from the Yakima County Farm Bureau (YCFB). YCFB is a grass roots organization with about 2700 members consisting of farmers and ranchers with operations both large and small as well as other folks with interest in agriculture affairs.**

**The YCFB position on Grizzly Bear introduction is that we strongly oppose this plan as well as any other proposal to move or encourage the species to inhabit the North Central Cascades of Washington State. We feel that Washington State is too populated and it's agriculture far too well developed to entertain a grizzly program and there are some serious natural resource concerns such as salmon recovery as well.**

**Tremendous amounts of public treasure has been expended in the goal of recovering Salmon and other species such as Bull Trout (both endangered species) as well as land use and water use restrictions that have been metered out to private and public entities for the purpose of restoring them. The Grizzly's taste for Salmon and Bull Trout attempting to spawn in the upper reaches of their intended waters will far exceed the capacity of any agency or department's best efforts to convince this bear species to not substantially dine on them. The burden on agriculture with respect to Salmon and Bull Trout recovery has been out of proportion to that of the general public so it should be to no one's surprise that our sector of the economy would be adamantly opposed to the wholesale consumption of their populations to these bears.**

**Personal safety of our members and their families as well as their employees and the general public is also a grave concern to our members. Many of our members raise livestock which are already or about to be targeted by two other apex predators, cougars and wolves. Adding a third and much more serious predator as the Grizzly would go beyond the pale.**

**The YCFB urges the USF&WS to abandon it's plan to introduce Grizzly Bears into Washington State.**

**Submitted by Mark Herke, President of the Yakima County Farm Bureau**

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