



GENERAL MILLS

Gene Kahn
Vice President,
Global Sustainability Officer

Representative Rick Larsen
107 Cannon House Office Building
1st St and Independence Ave
Washington D.C. 20515

RE: North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery

Dear Representative Larsen & Howdy Rick

January 15, 2008

I am writing to express my concern about the grizzly bear population in the North Cascades. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has acknowledged that the Cascades grizzly bear population - with likely fewer than 10 bears - is in imminent danger of extinction.

I understand that a federal plan to recover this population has been in place for a decade, yet we're still waiting for the key action of augmentation, by which a few bears would be transplanted into the North Cascades grizzly bear recovery zone to bolster the population.

I also understand that government grizzly bear biologists have used this management tool with great success and no conflicts in western Montana for more than 20 years. With the involvement of an educated and informed public there is no reason that a similar effort could not be successful in our region.

As an 37 year resident and businessman in the heart of our grizzly bear recovery zone, I am very supportive of efforts to protect and restore our magnificent native wildlife species. I believe that the recovery of grizzlies and other species not only helps safeguard the biodiversity of the Pacific Northwest but also encourages healthy, vibrant communities and economies. This in turn provides a down payment on quality of life for future generations.

This is an important opportunity for our communities and for you to provide leadership. Please request the appropriate funding and direction for the public process needed for augmentation and other recovery objectives.

As the only grizzly population remaining in the lower 48 states outside of the Rockies, the Cascades bears are important to the future of the species as well. As it will take decades for this population to become self-sustaining, there is little time left to lose.

Just as your leadership has been critical to Wild Sky Wilderness protection efforts; it is also critical to restoring grizzly bears and our wildlife legacy to the Pacific Northwest.

Sincerely

Thank you,
Gene Kahn

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