



Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

April 24, 2007

Mitch Friedman, Executive Director
Conservation Northwest
1208 Bay St., Suite 201
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Mr. Friedman:

Much of the Grizzly Bear recovery area in the North Cascades Ecosystem (NCE) is contained within the Yakama Nation's Ceded Area. The Ceded Area is that land which was ceded to the United States under our Treaty of 1855. Under the Treaty, the Yakama Nation kept the rights to hunt and fish at all usual and accustomed places as well as on open and unclaimed lands. Because of those rights, the Yakama Nation is recognized as a co-manager, along with the State of Washington, of fish and wildlife species and habitats.

It has long been a position of the Yakama Nation that all native species must be protected from extirpation. In that regard, the Yakama Nation supports the efforts by Conservation Northwest and Defenders of Wildlife to move the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to begin implementation of the North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Recovery plan. You may include the Yakama Nation in your list of groups who support grizzly bear recovery in the NCE.

Sincerely,

Lavina Washines
Tribal Chairwoman
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation