

(Public Hearing, Salmon, Idaho, October 8, 1997)

15 MS. WOOD: Thank you, I am representative JoAn  
16 Wood, Idaho State legislator, Representative of District  
17 26, representing Custer, Clark, Jefferson, and Lemhi  
18 Counties. I will be presenting testimony reflecting my  
19 own concerns and opinions expressed to help my  
20 constituency in their behalf.

21 According to information I have been able to  
- 22  glean from your printed material and related subject  
- 23  matter, the United States Fish and Wildlife agency  
- 24  grizzly bear recovery plan would lock up 32 million  
- 25  acres of the Western United States for this species

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- 1  which is in no danger of extinction. There are no  
- 2  studies I can document based on creditable scientific  
- 3  proof that this grizzly bear is endangered or  
- 4  threatened.

- 5 The only thing your studies have established  
6 is that someone, possibly a Fish and Wildlife biologist,  
7 decided that there ought to be more grizzly bears in the  
8 West. I doubt a good Fish and Wildlife biologist did  
9 make this decision, they would know better. The whoever  
10 determined the need to plant grizzly bears in the  
11 Selway-Bitterroot parts of Idaho and Montana meant to  
12 establish bear corridors connecting together and in  
13 order to do that had to fill the hole that would allow  
14 corridors to be contiguous and restricted gradually and  
15 totally from human beings and their activities including  
16 their private properties.

17 At the June 17, 1997, so-called public meeting  
- 18  the ground rules were laid. It was without any public  
- 19  input by a public except the few environmental groups  
- 20  chosen to lead the process of suing the U.S. Fish and  
- 21  Wildlife agency in order to force them to begin the  
- 22  process of creating the 32 million acres of protected  
- 23  recovery zone in the six regions of the West that would  
- 24  be connected by migratory corridors. All this would be  
- 25  allowed to be implemented, rules and regulations not

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- 1  endorsed by congress since they have not ratified the UN  
- 2  convention on biodiversity signed by President Clinton  
- 3  and is the mother of invention of the biological  
- 4  foundation for a contrived threatened species  
- 5  designation.

6 We, as a people of the Western United States,  
7 at least a large majority, object to these plans by this  
8 administration and the Secretary of Interior to destroy  
9 the lives and livelihoods they are willing to destroy by  
10 these plans that are not based on creditable science.

11 The projected acceptable human mortality rate

12 is an abomination that cannot be tolerated nor excused  
- 13 as humanitarian from an administration that is willing  
- 14 to throw stones at many other countries of this world  
- 15 for their unacceptable humanitarian practices. Those  
- 16 who wrote this factor into the studies and plans will  
- 17 have no risk to their families as the acceptable numbers  
- 18 of human mortality. We who will be risking our families  
- 19 in no way countenance any human mortality rate. How  
- 20 hypocritical can this Secretary of Interior be -- and  
- 21 the people of the United States tolerate it. We will  
- 22 not submit nor tolerate it in Idaho. We have said so  
- 23 clearly.

24 Our governor, our congressional delegation,  
25 our Idaho legislature, our Fish and Game Commission, our

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1 Fish and Game department, our county commissioners, our  
2 sportsmen's groups, our outdoor recreation groups, our  
3 cattlemen, wool growers, mining and timber industries,  
4 our Farm Bureau, all of us representing the citizens of  
5 this state have told you unequivocally no. We do not  
6 accept the planting of more grizzly bears into Idaho,  
7 nor do we abide any plans other than Alternative 3 being  
8 pushed on other states over their objections.

9 We do not accept any citizens advisory group  
10 alternative subject to veto, replacement or coercion  
11 from the Secretary of Interior of the United States  
12 Government, that government is us. We would ask the  
13 president of the United States to replace him with  
14 someone who will serve the people.

15 We do not accept any alternative as summarized  
16 in the executive summary. Alternative 3 comes closest  
17 to acceptance by any of us but there are assumptions  
18 made in the statements about Alternative 3 that need to  
19 be challenged. I will do that in writing.

20 The arrogance of the assumption that state  
- 21 legislation would be passed to remove grizzly bears from  
- 22 protection of state law is a bit presumptuous. We will  
- 23 decide that in Idaho. Agencies and the public would be  
- 24 allowed to kill grizzly bears at any time without  
- 25 restriction is a ridiculous assumption. We have not

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1 done so in the past before your ESA came along. We  
- 2 challenge your Tables S-2 and S-3 and the data used to  
- 3 compute these are scientifically questionable. The  
- 4 expected actions and effects are mostly acceptable to us  
- 5 but we most especially challenge that no measurable  
- 6 benefits would result from the alternative. Maybe you  
- 7 need to measure our lives and economy as something of  
- 8 worth.

9 We know that there is no threat of extinction

10 of the grizzly bear. They are free to propagate in  
- 11 Alaska, Canada, and national parks in the continental  
- 12 United States. They are not harassed there by business  
- 13 nor people.  
- 14 If this part of Idaho were native to and  
- 15 conducive to the propagation of these animals, they  
- 16 would already be there. They do not stay in the  
- 17 perimeters of Yellowstone Park, we know that from  
- 18 experience. If they wanted to go into our wilderness,  
- 19 there is nothing to stop them.  
- 20 We object strenuously to the value your plans  
21 place on this animal over the values of human life,  
22 liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.  
23 Thank you.