



US Fish and Wildlife Service

National Park Service



# North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration



## Environmental Impact Statement

Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Meeting

June 16, 2015



# Timeline

- 1975 – Grizzly bear listed as threatened species, lower 48 states under Endangered Species Act
- 1980 – Grizzly bear listed as an endangered species by State of Washington
- 1982 – National Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan approved by FWS; revised in 1993
- 1983 – Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee established
- 1991 – 9,800 square miles of North Cascades ecosystem in Washington State identified as adequate habitat for grizzly bears. Grizzly bears are confirmed in locations from just north of Interstate 90 to the international border
- 1991 – Decision made by Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee during winter 1991 meeting to recover grizzly bears in the North Cascades



# Timeline Continued

- 1993 – Detailed habitat evaluation of the North Cascades ecosystem published
- 1997 – North Cascades chapter added to National Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan
- 2004 – Grizzly bear recovery plan completed for the British Columbia portion of North Cascades ecosystem
- 2014 – NPS/FWS and cooperating agencies begin Environmental Impact Statement to determine how to restore grizzly bears in the North Cascades



# Grizzly Bear Environmental Impact Statement

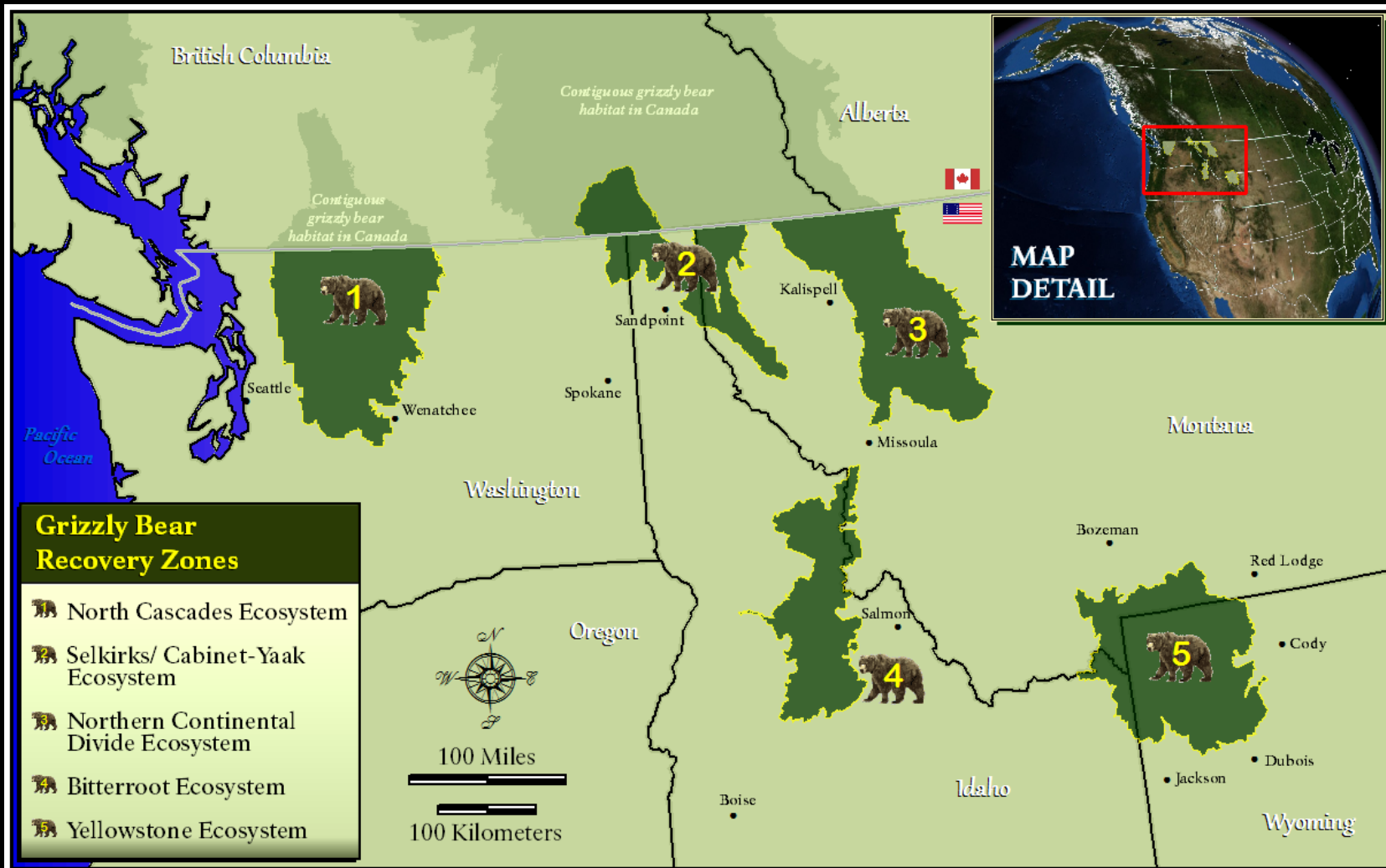
**Purpose :** The purpose of this Plan/EIS is to determine how to restore the grizzly bear to the North Cascades ecosystem (NCE), a portion of its historic range.

**Need :** Since the NCE grizzly bears are at risk of local extinction, action is needed at this time to:

- Avoid the permanent loss of grizzly bears in the NCE
- Contribute to the restoration of biodiversity of the ecosystem for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations
- Enhance the probability of long-term survival and conservation of grizzly bears within the lower 48 States and thereby contribute to overall grizzly bear recovery
- Support the removal of the grizzly bear from the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species



# Grizzly Bear Recovery Zones






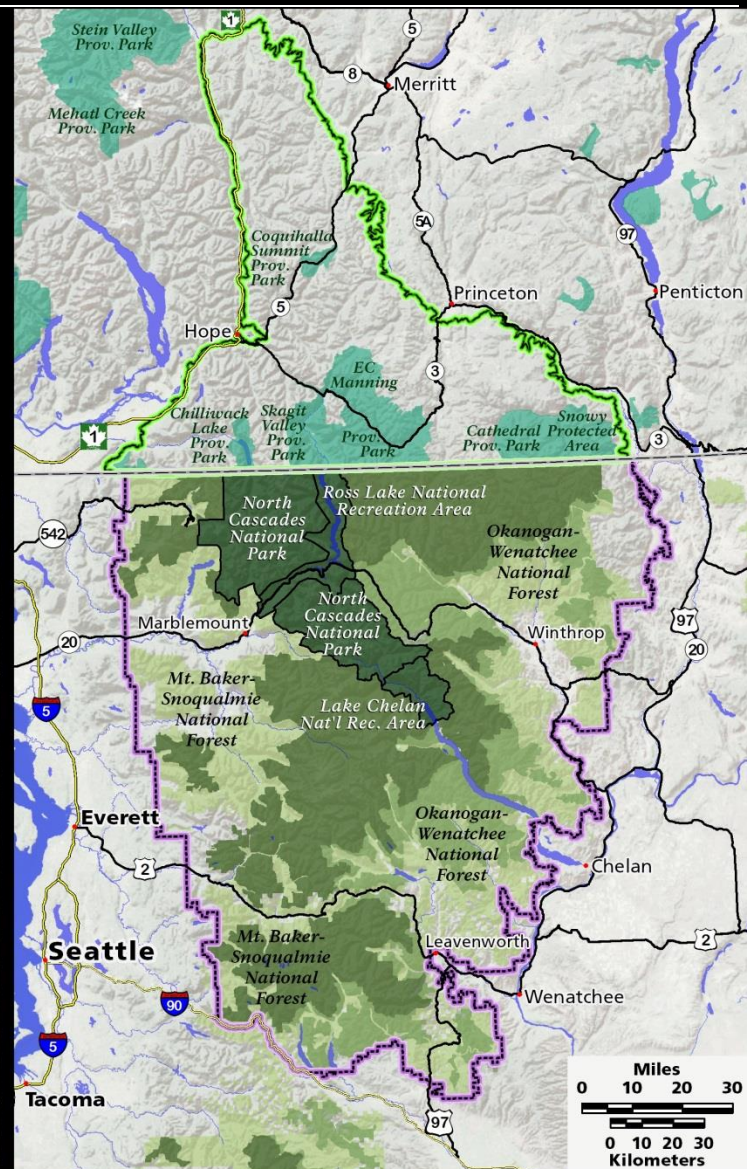




# North Cascades Ecosystem Recovery Zone

**North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Areas:**  
*North Cascades Ecosystem (USA)*  
*North Cascades Grizzly Bear Population Unit (Canada)*

-  North Cascades Ecosystem
-  North Cascades Grizzly Bear Population Unit
-  North Cascades NPS Complex / Stephen Mather Wilderness
-  National Forests
-  USFS Wilderness areas
-  USFS Inventoried Roadless Areas (O-W NF)
-  British Columbia provincial parks





# EIS Agencies

- NPS and USFWS - joint lead agencies
- USFS and WDFW - cooperating agencies
- BC Ministry - recognized as a key partner



# Public Scoping Meetings

## Week of March 3, 2015

- Winthrop (~80 attendees)
- Okanogan (~80 attendees)
- Wenatchee (~40 attendees)

## Week of March 9, 2015

- Cle Elum (~70 attendees)
- Seattle (~115 attendees)
- Bellingham (~110 attendees)





# Issues/concerns identified by public

- Personal safety – recreational use, private property, etc
- Potential impacts to favorite roads and trails
- Livestock depredation
- More public meetings in rural west-side communities
- Washington State law prohibiting moving bears from outside the state into ecosystem



# Additional Outreach

Briefings by agency staff :

- 4 separate county commissions
- US Senate and Congressional staff
- Washington State legislature – Senate NR Committee
- Recreational-user groups and partner organizations
- Upper Skagit Tribe
- Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission



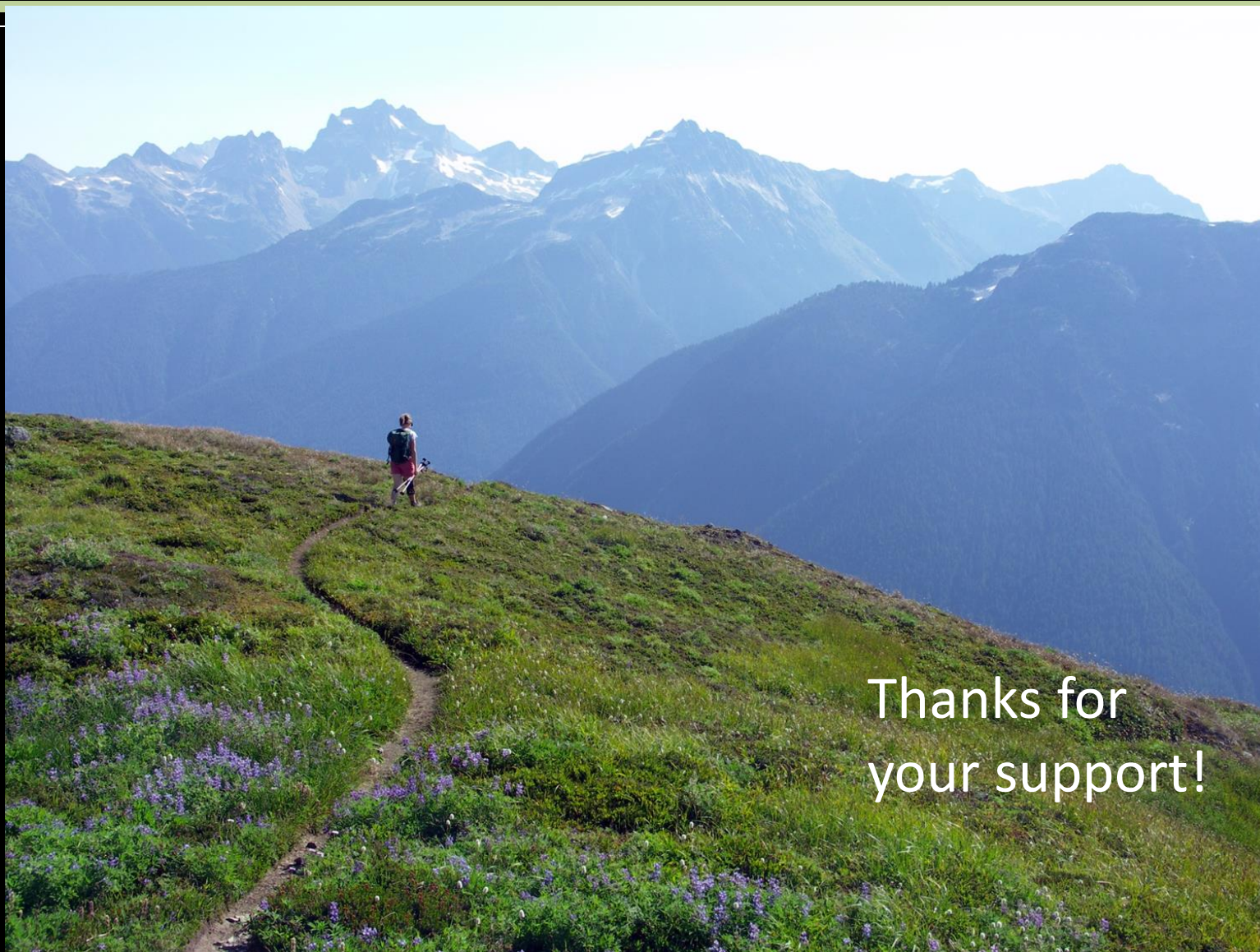
## EIS Schedule/Key Milestones:

- ✓ Notice of Intent and Public scoping - Spring 2015
- Development of Alternatives - Fall-Spring 2015/2016
- Notice of Availability of Draft EIS - Summer 2016
- Public Comment Period – Fall 2016
- Notice of Availability of Final EIS - Summer 2017
- Record of Decision - Fall 2017



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Thanks for  
your support!