

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. **2008 111**

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:	Caskey-Sc	3/3/2008		3/11/2008	Council
Division Head:					
Dept. Head:					
Prosecutor:					
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:					

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:

Res. Supporting Implementation of the N. Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan

ATTACHMENTS:

SEPA review required? () Yes () NO Should Clerk schedule a hearing? () Yes () NO
 SEPA review completed? () Yes () NO Requested Date:

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)

Resolution supporting Implementation of the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan

COMMITTEE ACTION:

COUNCIL ACTION:

3/11/2008: Council Approved 6-1 Crawford opposed Res. 2008-013

Related County Contract #:

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number: Res. 2008-013

Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.

PROPOSED BY: Caskey-Schreiber
SPONSORED BY: Consent
INTRODUCTION DATE: March 11, 2008

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-013

**SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NORTH CASCADES GRIZZLY BEAR
RECOVERY PLAN**

WHEREAS, Whatcom County's wildlife and wild places are a core part of life in this beautiful county; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan encourages actions which "protect and enhance natural systems which provide economic, ecological, aesthetic, and cultural benefit (Goal 11H), and "protect and enhance natural systems that support...wildlife populations and habitat" (Goal 11J); and

WHEREAS, there are many ecological, economic, and spiritual benefits to conserving and recovering grizzly bears and other native wildlife as an integral part of our county's natural heritage, quality of life and identity; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2 of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan states that "maintaining healthy fish and wildlife populations is a vital goal in maintaining the quality of life in Whatcom County"; and

WHEREAS, grizzly bears are an "umbrella species" the conservation of which will benefit dozens of other plants and animals; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates that over \$1.7 billion is spent annually in the US on wildlife watching activities, supporting more than 21,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, the people of Whatcom County take great pride in their county's internationally significant wildlife legacy; and

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has identified the North Cascades as one of only six grizzly bear recovery zones in the lower 48 states and the only grizzly bear recovery zone outside of the Rocky Mountains; and

WHEREAS, the US Fish and Wildlife Service estimates there are less than 20 bears left in the North Cascades - a number too low to be self-sustaining; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is mandated under the Endangered Species Act to protect and recover endangered wildlife populations; and

WHEREAS, the federal North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan has been in place for a decade but has not been fully implemented, and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington and other public and private entities have appropriated funds for a public process under federal law to implement recovery planning.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council urges the United States Congress to appropriate necessary funding through the 2009 federal appropriations process and urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to immediately implement the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan including all necessary actions identified by their biologists to recover this highly endangered grizzly bear population.

APPROVED this 11th day of March, 2008.

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
ATTEST: **WHATCOM COUNTY**
STATE OF WASHINGTON
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Carl Weimer, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Civil Deputy Prosecutor