

# CHAPTER V

## *CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION*





## **CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

### **Time Line for Consultation and Coordination in Development of the Proposal**

During preparation and development of the proposal, a wide variety of professional contacts were established. Grizzly bear biologists and managers in the U.S. and Canada were contacted. During development of the EIS proposal an interagency, interdisciplinary team was established, with representatives from various federal agencies, states, and tribes (see List of Preparers). During all EIS Team meetings and briefings, discussions were held regarding potential management strategies for grizzly bear restoration and reintroduction. During these meetings and briefings, discussions often centered around how a grizzly bear restoration plan could be developed such that it could result in grizzly bear recovery and also address the concerns of the various publics. The ideas, thoughts, data, criticisms, and experiences about grizzly bear reintroduction and the EIS were being sought with the goal of developing a proposal that could receive concurrence from as many affected parties as possible. This section summarizes the interagency coordination that occurred and was used to develop the proposed action of reintroducing grizzly bears as a nonessential experimental population into the Bitterroot Ecosystem (BE). See Appendix 1 for additional information regarding the chronology of grizzly bear recovery in the BE.

- 1975 Grizzly bear listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Bitterroot Ecosystem recognized as one of the 3 recovery areas, along with the Bob Marshall and Yellowstone areas.
- 1982 Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan finalized. Bitterroot Ecosystem identified as an Evaluation Area to determine if grizzly bears still existed there, and if the habitat was of good enough quality to provide for grizzly bear population recovery.
- 1991 Technical Review Team of independent bear biologists was organized to review available habitat data. The Team determined that the BEA could support between 200-400 grizzly bears.
- 1992 The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) reviewed the determination and recommendations of the Technical Review Team and authorized the preparation of a Recovery Plan for the Bitterroot Ecosystem to include as a chapter of the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan. An interagency team of biologists was organized to develop the plan.
- 1992 Wayne Wakkinen (IDFG) was appointed team leader of an interagency team of biologists (USFWS, IDFG, MDFWP, USFS) to develop the BE Recovery Plan Chapter.
- 1992 A Citizens Involvement Group (CIG) was organized to help guide the development of the Bitterroot Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Recovery Chapter. Invitations to participate in this group were published in several local papers and were sent to people on the mailing lists for the Clearwater, Nez Perce, and Bitterroot National Forests. The CIG began with 50 people and ended in 1993 with 30 members.
- 1992 September - open houses to provide public information scoping on the draft BE Recovery Plan Chapter were held by the USFWS, CIG, and interagency team in Hamilton and Missoula, MT, Salt Lake City, UT, and Lewiston, Grangeville, and Orofino, ID. USFWS

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- recommended using a “nonessential experimental population” designation as identified in Sec. 10(j) of the ESA and releasing 4-6 bears per year for 5 years.
- 1993 Revised Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan completed.
- 1993 Bitterroot Ecosystem Subcommittee branched off from Northwest Ecosystem Subcommittee to allow decision makers more involvement in planning and local input.
- 1993 Federal Register Notice published for public involvement for the BE Recovery Plan Chapter (8/16/93).
- 1993 USFWS solicits public response to the draft BE Recovery Plan Chapter (8/20-10/20). Several public meetings were held to obtain information for the BE Recovery Plan Chapter.
- 1993 *Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Bitterroots* brochure published by the IDFG, USFS, USFWS, and MDFWP (8/93).
- 1993 The Idaho Legislature authorized the formation of a Grizzly Bear Oversight Committee for Idaho, consisting of the chairs of the Idaho Senate and House Resource committees, and representatives each from timber, mining, livestock, recreation, and wildlife. Committee held public meetings on the BE Recovery Plan Chapter in Grangeville and Orofino, Idaho (8/93).
- 1993 In response to public comments from local communities of central Idaho and western Montana, several changes were made in the final draft chapter. The draft chapter was completed December 11, 1993 and approved by the IGBC. The BE Recovery Plan final draft was appended as a chapter to the Revised Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan, and listed for comment in the Federal Register. It called for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate a full range of recovery alternatives.
- 1994 2/4 - (revised on 2/7), release of “Position Statement of the State of Idaho Grizzly Bear Oversight Committee.”
- 1994 July - IGBC authorized development of an Environmental Impact Statement to identify alternatives and issues, recovery area boundaries, and environmental consequences of implementing the BE Recovery Chapter.
- 1994 11/28 - IGBC Bitterroot Ecosystem Subcommittee meets in Missoula. Dr. Chris Servheen reports on EIS funding, and the intention to hire an EIS team leader. Schedule and public involvement discussed.
- 1994 12/14-15 - Winter IGBC meeting in Denver, CO. EIS schedule approved.
- 1995 1/9 - Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS published in the Federal Register (Vol 60, No 5).
- 1995 The USFWS continued public involvement and assembled an interdisciplinary team to begin the EIS process. Team leader selected. Team members include specialists from the USFWS, USFS, IDFG, MDFWP, and the Nez Perce Tribe.
- 1995 1/26 - BE EIS team meeting. Strategic planning on setting up systems, partnerships, etc. Nadeau reports on meeting with Keith Carlson, ID Fish and Game Commissioner.
- 1995 2/1 - Core EIS team meeting. Develop initial EIS schedule.
- 1995 2/2 - IGBC Bitterroot Ecosystem Subcommittee meets in Missoula. EIS schedule developed, and EIS team leader is introduced. Printing and distribution of Citizen’s Q&A booklet scheduled. Coalition presents framework for an alternative with no economic impact.
- 1995 2/9 - Bitterroot Public Involvement strategy meeting.

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- 1995 2/28 - EIS Team leader meets with Idaho Panhandle National Forest.
- 1995 March-May - USFWS, USFS, and IDFG attend (as guests) sensing meetings hosted by Coalition. Meetings held in Grangeville, Orofino, Hamilton, and Missoula.
- 1995 3/2-3 Bitterroot EIS meeting in Boise.
- 1995 3/3 - EIS Team leader appeared before the Idaho Legislature joint Committees on Resources at the request of Sen. Laird Noh and Rep. Golden Linford. EIS Team leader discussed the BE EIS process. Dr. Jim Peek (Univ. of Idaho) and Jerry Conley (IDFG) made presentations. Joint Committees voted to continue the Grizzly Bear Management Oversight Committee.
- 1995 3/4 - Boise AP story on ID Legislature voting to stay involved in the process.
- 1995 March - Chris Servheen and Tom Puchlertz meet with Sen. Craig, Rep. Chenoweth, and Rep. Crapo in Washington, D.C. Interest in the overall process, public involvement, and a 10j alternative.
- 1995 March - IGBC meeting in Minneapolis. Team leader presents overview of the EIS process, emerging issues, and updated EIS schedule.
- 1995 3/15 - IGBC Bitterroot Ecosystem Subcommittee (BES) meeting in Lewiston, ID. EIS Team leader attended.
- 1995 April - BES informed that ID Legislature Oversight Committee will continue with its participation in grizzly recovery, which in turn allows IDFG to continue their participation.
- 1995 4/20 - EIS Team leader meets with Bitterroot National Forest in Hamilton, MT.
- 1995 5/4 - EIS Team leader meets at Lowell, ID with IDFG and USFS biologists to determine effectiveness of present forest guidelines for grizzly bear concerns. Decision made that Clearwater Forest standards are adequate for the planning period.
- 1995 5/11 - BES meeting at USFS Powell Ranger District. EIS Team leader and Chris Servheen attend. Idaho legislative Oversight Committee extended for 2 years. Received 80 comments on NOI in Federal Register. Decide to contract with Responsive Management for survey of social attitudes regarding grizzly bear recovery in the BE.
- 1995 5/18-19 - EIS Team leader and Chris Servheen meet with USFWS Regional Office in Denver to discuss the BE DEIS.
- 1995 6/2 - EIS Team leader attends internal scoping meeting at West Fork Ranger Station, Bitterroot Forest.
- 1995 6/5 - Formal scoping for issues and alternatives begins with notice in Federal Register for a 45-day comment period.
- 1995 6/11 - EIS Team leader attends Ravalli County Commissioners meeting in Hamilton, MT.
- 1995 6/12 - EIS Team leader conducts interagency coordination in Moscow, ID.
- 1995 6/12 - EIS Team leader conducts interagency coordination in Orofino and Lewiston, ID.
- 1995 6/20 - News release sent to media in western Montana and Idaho announcing public scoping meetings.
- 1995 6/9-24 - Public attitude survey conducted by Responsive Management for IDFG.
- 1995 6/24 - Bitterroot CIG (from BE Recovery Plan Chapter revision) reconvenes for EIS update in Lowell, ID.
- 1995 7/5-11 - Seven Alternative and Issue scoping sessions held in Grangeville, Orofino, Boise, ID, Hamilton, Missoula, Helena, MT, and Salt Lake City, UT.

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- 1995 7/20 - End 45-day public comment period on scoping of issues and alternatives.
- 1995 7/25 - Public comment period extended 30 days to August 21. A news release was sent to local and national media announcing the extension.
- 1995 7/27 - BES meeting in Grangeville, ID.
- 1995 8/1-3 - Summer IGBC meeting at Radium Hot Springs. BE DEIS progress discussed in public meeting.
- 1995 8/4 - USFWS press release (AP), "Independent sampling of public attitudes completed on proposal to reintroduce grizzly bears in Bitterroot Mountains of Idaho."
- 1995 8/21 - End of 30-day extension to public comment period for issues and alternatives.
- 1995 8/27 - Missoulain article on AP wire with results of attitude survey.
- 1995 9/19 - Content analysis of public comments on scoping of issues and preliminary alternatives completed.
- 1995 October - Content analysis report to the public and IGBC.
- 1995 11/2 - BE EIS team meeting in Missoula. Planning schedule, review of wolf EIS, bracket alternatives, review table of contents, information need and sources, and time frame.
- 1995 November - Gov. Racicot meets with over 300 citizens in Ravalli County. Grizzly bear recovery a major point of meeting. The Governor supported the concept of citizen's management.
- 1995 11/21 - Herb Pollard notifies BES of new members on EIS team, Wayne Kasworm and Johnna Roy.
- 1995 November - Mollie Beattie meets with Sen. Conrad Burns. BE EIS is a key discussion point.
- 1995 11/28 - IDFG personnel are briefed on BE EIS process via and internal mailing.
- 1995 11/30 and 12/8 - Idaho Legislative Oversight Committee comments on Coalition alternative.
- 1995 12/6-7 - Winter IGBC meeting in Denver, CO. Implementation funding for BE EIS on agenda.
- 1996 January - Briefing prepared for Senator Burns on the BE EIS and reintroduction process to date.
- 1996 January - Alliance for the Wild Rockies publishes, *The Conservation Biology Alternative for Grizzly Bear Recovery and Population Restoration in the Greater Salmon-Selway Region of Central Idaho and western Montana*. The Alliance hosts a series of public open houses to review this alternative and issues a news release on their alternative.
- 1996 1/18 - BE EIS team updates Idaho Legislature Oversight Committee via letter.
- 1996 1/22 - Dianne Daley-Laursen briefs Matthew McKeown, Idaho Office of the Attorney General, on BE EIS.
- 1996 1/23 - IDFG EIS team member briefs Jerry Conley (IDFG Director) on status of BE DEIS.
- 1996 1/24-25 - Dana Dolson attended USFS research team meeting for the integrated BE.
- 1996 1/25 - Governor Batt writes a letter to Rep. Chenoweth stating the state of Idaho is opposed to grizzly bear reintroduction.
- 1996 1/20 - Ralph Morgenweck briefs congressional staffs in Washington, D.C. on BE EIS.
- 1996 2/8-9 - Idaho Legislature passes House Joint Memorial No. 6 urging Congress to withdraw funding and other actions for reintroduction of the grizzly bear into Idaho.
- 1996 2/13 - IGBC conference call. BE EIS scheduling and funding for implementation.

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- 1996 2/23 - Laird Robinson and Chris Servheen briefed Idaho Legislature with background information prior to vote on House Joint Memorial No. 6.
- 1996 2/26 - Idaho Legislature passes House Joint Memorial 6 opposing grizzly bear reintroduction.
- 1996 2/26 - USFWS press release, "US Fish and Wildlife Service announces progress on Draft Environmental Impact Statement." AP, MT and ID weeklies. Major issues identified in scoping and alternatives submitted during scoping are written up. Progress on the DEIS and future public involvement are discussed.
- 1996 3/13 - MT Governor Marc Racicot writes USFWS with citizen concerns regarding reintroduction.
- 1996 3/14 - BE EIS team meeting. Revise schedule, review alternatives.
- 1996 3/25 - IGBC meeting at Tulsa, OK. Implementation funding and release of draft EIS to the public.
- 1996 5/22-24 - BE EIS team meeting. Review and edit Chapters 1-3, and revise schedule.
- 1996 6/4 - Summer IGBC meeting held in Gardiner, MT. Update on BE DEIS.
- 1996 7/2 - BE EIS team meeting. Review Chapters 1-3,5,6 and make edits. Discuss alternatives and revise schedule.
- 1996 7/31 - BE EIS team conference call. Revise schedule and discuss DEIS release and public involvement strategy.
- 1996 8/9 - DEIS draft sent to USFWS Denver Regional and Washington Offices for internal review.
- 1996 9/11 - Bitterroot Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Recovery Chapter finalized and signed.
- 1996 10/4 - Steve Nadeau briefs Idaho Fish and Game Commission at Boise regarding progress of DEIS.
- 1996 10/10 - BE EIS team meeting. Review USFWS comments on draft DEIS, revise schedule, and discuss public involvement strategy.
- 1996 10/21 - DEIS draft sent to partner agencies (USFS, MDFWP, Nez Perce Tribe) for internal review and comment.
- 1996 11/27 - BE EIS team conference call with USFWS (Boise) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (Boise) to discuss the Biological Assessment for the DEIS.
- 1996 11/27 - Revised DEIS draft sent to IDFG for internal review and comment.
- 1997 1/15 - Dr. Chris Servheen briefs IGBC on status of DEIS at Denver winter meeting.
- 1997 1/24 - Steve Mealey, Director IDFG sends letter to Dr. Chris Servheen stating that IDFG does not wish to comment on the internal agency review draft of the DEIS.
- 1997 1/27 - BE EIS team conference call with NMFS Boise office representative to discuss Biological Assessment preparation for anadromous fish.
- 1997 2/6 - Proposed Special Rule sent to USFWS Washington Office for review and signature.
- 1997 2/7 - DEIS sent to USFWS Region 6 and Washington Office for final review.
- 1997 3/18 - Dr. Chris Servheen briefs IGBC on status of DEIS at Washington, D.C. meeting.
- 1997 3/31 - Final edits from USFWS Region 6 and Washington Office reviews made to DEIS.
- 1997 4/16 - Dr. Chris Servheen and IGBC members meet with Idaho Governor Batt and Steve Mealey (IDFG Director) to discuss Bitterroot DEIS.
- 1997 4/17 - EIS team meets with NMFS representative to discuss Biological Assessment.

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- 1997 4/30 - Dr. Chris Servheen and IGBC members meet in Boise with Idaho Legislators, Idaho Congressional Delegation, Public Lands Committee of the Idaho Association of Counties, and Idaho Fish and Game Commission to discuss DEIS.
- 1997 5/9 - Conference call with USFWS and USFS to discuss DEIS status and plan for publicizing the document release to the public.
- 1997 5/15 - Core EIS team meets to draft a communications and publicity plan for the DEIS.
- 1997 6/12 - Dr. Chris Servheen and IGBC members testify at congressional hearings chaired by Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth, in Washington, D.C.
- 1997 6/16 - Draft EIS completed, approved, and sent to printer for public distribution.
- 1997 6/15-30 - Dr. Chris Servheen and Laird Robinson brief Idaho and Montana Governors, Legislatures, and Congressional offices regarding DEIS.
- 1997 7/1 - Draft EIS and DEIS Summaries distributed to public, and available on the Internet, and public review requested during a 90-day public comment period. Public comment period begins July 11 and ran through December 1, 1997 (following two extensions).
- 1997 7/1 - Endangered Species Act, Proposed Rule 10(j) for Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Grizzly Bears in the Bitterroot Area of Idaho and Montana published in the Federal Register on July 2. Comment period begins July 11 and runs through December 1.
- 1997 9/30 - Comment period deadline extended from September 30 to November 1, based on numerous requests for more time to prepare comments.
- 1997 10/1-8 - Public hearings/open houses to gather public comments on the DEIS and Proposed Special Rule held in seven communities on the perimeter of the Bitterroot area. Approximately 1400 people attended these hearings and 293 individuals testified. The dates and locations for the public hearings were as follows: October 1, 1997: Challis, Idaho and Hamilton, Montana; October 2, 1997: Missoula, Montana and Lewiston, Idaho; October 3, 1997: Boise, Idaho and Helena, Montana; October 8, 1997: Salmon, Idaho.
- 1997 11/1 - Comment period deadline extended from November 1 to December 1, following a request from a member of the Idaho Congressional delegation.
- 1997 December 1 - Public Comment period ended.
- 1998 12/97-3/98 - Content Analysis of public comments on the Draft EIS and Proposed Special Rule. Report entitled, "Summary of Public Comments on the Draft EIS for Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem" and Executive Summary Report released to public in April 1998.
- 1998 4-12 - EIS Team prepares draft Final EIS for internal review. Private contractor prepares Bitterroot Population Viability/Habitat Analysis for Congressionally-mandated study to be included in FEIS. Numerous EIS Team meetings occurred to write/review FEIS. Idaho Fish and Game Department representatives attend 2 meetings to review and comment on Population Viability Analysis. EIS Team members also met numerous times with Craighead Wildlife-Wildlands researchers to coordinate and review Habitat/Bear Foods Study to include in FEIS. Public Affairs Specialist provides numerous briefings and presentations to local politicians, community groups, and media. EIS Team members respond to all requests



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- for presentations and briefings. EIS Team finalizes formal consultation with NMFS and internal review of USFWS Biological Assessment.
- 1999 2/99 - Internal USFWS review of draft Final EIS.
- 1999 4/99 - Incorporate internal comments into a final draft FEIS.
- 1999 6/99 - Final draft sent for USFWS internal review in Denver Region, Solicitor's Office, and Washington, D.C. Office.
- 1999 8/99-9/99 - Receive comments from internal reviewers.
- 1999 9/99 - Dr. Chris Servheen, Johnna Roy, Denver and Portland Region personnel, brief USFWS Director and Washington Office staff on progress with the FEIS. Receive written comments 10/99.
- 1999 11/99 - Final comments incorporated and FEIS sent to Denver Region and Washington Office for final review and naming process.
- 2000 1/99-2/99 - Final comments incorporated, and FEIS sent to printer.
- 2000 3/99 - Notice of Availability published in Federal Register, and FEIS released to public for 30-day final review period (March 24 through April 24). Comments will be reviewed, and a Record of Decision will be published and released to the public.

### **Consultation and Coordination in Development of the EIS**

Planning for the reintroduction of grizzly bears into the Bitterroot Ecosystem of central Idaho and western Montana was initiated in 1993, when the agencies of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee directed that an EIS be produced. An interagency team (see List of Preparers this chapter) was established during 1995. During preparation of the DEIS, federal, state and local agencies, special interest groups and the public were consulted to obtain descriptive information, identify significant issues and effects and identify effective mitigating measures and reasonable alternatives to the proposal. The first series of seven public meetings was held by the USFWS in July 1995 (see Public Participation section, this chapter). At these meetings the USFWS presented information about the DEIS process and requested the public to identify issues they believed were important to grizzly bear recovery (see Chapter 1 for discussion of issues). A public comment period and hearings to gather public comment were conducted after release of the DEIS. The comment period was open from July 1, 1997 to December 1, 1997 and was extended twice due to public requests. Seven hearings were held in local communities in Idaho and Montana (see Appendix 20 for more information on public comments on the DEIS). Most of the agencies and organizations listed at the end of this "Consultation and Coordination" section were contacted by the USFWS during preparation of the DEIS and FEIS.

### **Summary of Public Involvement for Draft EIS**

**Introduction.**— This section summarizes the public involvement process (scoping) that was conducted in 1995 to identify issues and alternatives regarding grizzly bear reintroduction into the Bitterroot Ecosystem of central Idaho and western Montana. The formal scoping process identified issues that were raised in the public comments, and also gathered public input on 3 preliminary alternatives suggested by the USFWS. Chapter 1 discusses the significant issues raised during

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scoping, and also describes the preliminary alternatives and how public comments shaped the 4 alternatives presented in the DEIS. Further, Appendix 19 contains portions of the report on the results of the content analysis of public comments received during scoping.

**Background.**— Beginning in 1993, local residents representing a spectrum of opinions on grizzly bear recovery, served on a citizen's involvement group as partners with agency personnel. The citizen's group provided direct input which led to several modifications of the final BE Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan Chapter, which was endorsed by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee in 1993. In 1995, the Fish & Wildlife Service continued public involvement and assembled an interdisciplinary team to begin the EIS process. Team members include specialists from the USFWS, USDA Forest Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the Nez Perce Tribe.

**Issue and Alternative Scoping.**— The USFWS formally began the scoping process on January 9, 1995 with the publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the Federal Register (Vol. 60 - No. 5) on pages 2399-2400. The notice was furnished as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (40 CFR 1501.7) to obtain input from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS. This NOI asked the public to identify issues that should be addressed in the draft EIS. A few days earlier the USFWS had also issued a news release announcing the beginning of the EIS process and the start of an EIS on grizzly bear recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem.

The preliminary issues identified in March 1995 from scoping meetings for the Bitterroot Ecosystem Chapter of the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan and the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS were:

- recovery options and legal classification of grizzly bears
- possible restrictions on human uses of public lands
- geographic boundaries for recovery
- location and cost of a reintroduction program
- illegal killing of grizzly bears
- participatory role of citizens in grizzly bear recovery
- concern for human safety
- control of nuisance grizzly bears

Three preliminary alternatives were also identified and published in a Scoping of Issues and Alternatives brochure (Appendix 16). This brochure was sent to 1,100 people and distributed at seven open houses in July, 1995. The scoping brochure detailed the EIS process, provided background information, identified preliminary issues and alternatives, and described the purpose and need of the proposed action.

On June 5, 1995, a notice was published in the Federal Register initiating the formal scoping process with a 45-day comment period. A news release was sent to the print, radio, and television media in

western Montana and Idaho on June 26, 1995 announcing the dates and locations for public open houses. Public issue scoping was initiated by the USFWS by mailing a brochure that detailed the EIS process. It was mailed to 1100 people and distributed at seven open houses. The brochure gave background information, issues and alternatives identified to date, and explained how to become involved in the EIS process. People were asked to identify their issues and alternatives related to grizzly bear recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem.

From July 5-11, 1995, seven open houses were held in Boise, Orofino, and Grangeville, Idaho; Hamilton, Helena, and Missoula, Montana; and Salt Lake City, Utah. The open houses started at 4:00 p.m. and lasted until 8:00 p.m. At the open houses, people could watch a 5-minute introductory video about the proposal and talk with representatives of the USFWS, USDA Forest Service, and State Fish and Game agencies about grizzly bears, their recovery, and the EIS process. Those who attended the open houses received copies of the issue and alternative scoping brochure and the question-and-answer booklet. They were encouraged to leave written comments with the agency personnel or mail their comments later. Verbal comments or questions were heard and responded to by the agency representatives, but verbal testimony was not formally recorded.

Approximately 300 people attended the open houses. Written public comments on issues and alternatives were solicited at the open houses and through the media. On July 25, 1995, a notice was published in the Federal Register extending the scoping comment period 30 days (from July 20 to August 21, 1995). This extension was requested by numerous public interests with varied opinions on this complex topic. A July 25 press release was sent to local and national media to announce the extension.

Written comments on the preliminary issues and alternatives were received from more than 3,300 individual organizations and government agencies (Appendix 19 for summary). These comments arrived in over 565 letters, open house meeting notes, six petitions, and six form letters or postcards. A content analysis was performed on the public comments and a report of results prepared. The report, "Summary of Public Comments on the Scoping of Issues and Alternatives for Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem" was released to the public and mailed to all people on the mailing list in September 1995. Appendix 19 contains pertinent portions of that report.

### **Public Review of the Draft EIS**

***Solicitation of Public Comment on the DEIS.***— The Draft EIS was released for public review and comment on July 1, 1997. A Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register, the DEIS was mailed to the entire mailing list, and copies of the DEIS and Summary of the DEIS were mailed to over 60 local libraries in Idaho and Montana. The DEIS and the Summary of the DEIS were also published on the Service web site at: <http://www.r6/fws/gov/endspp/grizzly>. A news release announcing the availability of the DEIS and requesting public comment was provided to local and national media contacts (newspaper, television, radio).

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***Public Hearings.***— To provide an opportunity for people to voice their concerns, public hearings/open houses were held during October 1997 to gather public comments on the DEIS. These were held in seven communities on the perimeter of the Bitterroot area. Approximately 1400 people attended these hearings and 293 individuals testified. The dates and locations for the public hearings were as follows: Challis, Idaho and Hamilton, Montana (October 1); Missoula, Montana and Lewiston, Idaho (October 2); Boise, Idaho and Helena, Montana (October 3); and Salmon, Idaho (October 8). Hearings were conducted from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and verbal testimony (treated the same as written comments) was recorded and any written comments were accepted. In addition, the Service held meetings with local community, state leaders, and interest groups in communities around the perimeter of the proposed Recovery Area.

***Extension of Public Comment Period.***— Comments were to be received through September 30. The comment period was extended to November 1 based on numerous requests for more time to prepare responses. The comment period was extended a second time to December 1, 1997 following a request from a member of the Idaho Congressional delegation. A press release announced each extension.

***Public Comment on the DEIS.***— Comments on the DEIS were received from over 24,000 individuals, organizations, and government agencies. These comments arrived in over 2,660 letters, DEIS summary forms, resolutions, and hearing testimonies. Ten petitions were received with over 21,000 signatures. Fifteen form letters were identified.

An analysis of the public comments on the DEIS was performed by an interagency team of 14 employees from the Service and the USDA Forest Service in December - January 1998. The system used to analyze comments was objective, reliable and traceable. Every comment was given an individual identification number and was coded according to the demographic nature of the response. Substantive comments (positive and negative) on issues or alternatives were coded and entered into a database. A respondent's exact words were used when entering responses into the database. A detailed summary report, "*Summary of Public Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem*" and an executive summary report of 24,251 public comments were prepared and released to the public in April 1998 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1998). The reports were mailed to the entire mailing list and to all that commented on the DEIS. Issues raised during public comment on the DEIS were similar to the issues identified during public scoping. Appendix 20 contains Chapter 1 - "Introduction" from this report.

Further, all comments from federal, state, and local governments having regulatory authorities, and comments from Native American Tribes are printed in the FEIS. Responses to those comments are also provided in Chapter 5. Due to the volume of response, most letters from individuals and non-governmental agencies are not printed in the FEIS, but 18 letters from the most prominent or most vocal large private organizations, representing the diverse points of view about the proposal, are included and responded to in detail. Issues identified through the analysis of public comments (USFWS 1998) and the USFWS responses are presented in Chapter 5.

**LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS SENT THE DEIS AND FEIS FOR REVIEW**

**Federal Agencies**

Copies of this Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) were provided to federal, state, local agencies, Native American tribes, interest groups and organizations who may be affected by the final decision and the above list of preparers/reviewers.

Due to the voluminous number of people and organizations on the mailing list, copies of the DEIS and FEIS were provided to public libraries in Montana and Idaho, and Salt Lake City, Utah because it was the national location for one of the open house meetings.

***Council on Environmental Quality***

Information Office

Office of Director

State Director, Idaho

State Director, Montana

***Environmental Protection Agency***

Director, Office of Federal Activities

National Park Service

Office of Director

Regional Director, Region 8

Denver, Colorado

Regional Director

Pacific Northwest Region

Regional Director, Region 10

Seattle, WA

Regional Director

Rocky Mountain Region

***United States Dept. Of Agriculture***

Secretary of Agriculture

United States Fish & Wildlife Service

Office of Director

Animal & Plant Health Inspector Service

Animal Damage Control

Deputy Administrator

Regional Director, Western Region

Regional Director, Region 1

Regional Director, Region 6

Ecological Services

State Offices: Boise, Idaho

Helena, Montana

Extension Office/Information Office

***STATE OF IDAHO***

U.S.D.A. Forest Service

Regional Forester, Region 1

Regional Forester, Region 4

Honorable Dirk Kempthorne

Governor

Director

Dept. of Commerce

***United States Dept. Of Interior***

Secretary of Interior

Director

Office of the Solicitor

Dept. of Fish and Game

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Office of Director

Area Director, Portland, Oregon

Director

Dept. of State Lands

Bureau of Land Management

Lemhi County Planning & Zoning Comm.

Lemhi County Courthouse

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Clearwater County Planning & Zoning Comm.  
Clearwater County Courthouse

Idaho County Planning & Zoning Comm.  
Idaho County Courthouse

Lewis County Planning & Zoning Comm.  
Lewis County Courthouse

President  
Idaho State University

President  
Lewis and Clark State College

President  
North Idaho College

President  
University of Idaho

Idaho Grizzly Bear Management  
Oversight Committee:

Ms. Cindy Siddoway  
Mr. Dick Willhite  
Honorable Laird Noh  
Mr. Bob Deurloo  
Mr. John Hatch  
Dr. Jim Peek  
Director Idaho Fish and Game  
Mr. Mike Luque  
Honorable Charles Cuddy

Also on mailing list:

Honorable Judy Danielson  
Mr. Stan Hamilton  
Honorable Golden Linford  
Honorable Marguerite McLaughlin  
Mr. Grant Simonds  
Mr. Matthew McKeown

**STATE OF MONTANA**  
Honorable Marc Racicot  
Governor

Director  
Dept. of Commerce

Director  
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director  
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation

Commissioner  
Dept. of State Lands

Director  
Montana Dept. of Agriculture

Montana State Library  
U.S. & Senate Documents Dept.

President  
Montana State University

President  
University of Montana

Provost  
Western Montana College

### **Native American Tribes Elected Officials**

Chairman  
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Council  
Lapwai, Idaho

Chairman  
Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council  
Plummer, Idaho

Chairman  
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes  
Pablo, Montana

### **Federal Elected Officials**

Honorable Larry Craig  
U.S. Senate, Idaho

Honorable Michael Crapo  
U.S. Senate, Idaho

Honorable Mike Simpson  
U.S. House of Representatives, Idaho

Honorable Helen Chenoweth  
U.S. House of Representatives, Idaho

## *Agencies and Organizations Contacted*

Honorable Max Baucus  
U.S. Senate, Montana

Honorable Conrad Burns  
U.S. Senate, Montana

Honorable Rick Hill  
U.S. House of Representatives, Montana

### **Local Elected Officials**

Board of County Commissioners  
Blaine County, Idaho

Board of County Commissioners  
Boise County, Idaho

Board of County Commissioners  
Camas County, Idaho

Board of County Commissioners  
Clearwater County, Idaho

Board of County Commissioners  
Custer County, Idaho

Board of County Commissioners  
Elmore County, Idaho

Board of County Commissioners  
Idaho County, Idaho

Board of County Commissioners  
Lemhi County, Idaho

Board of County Commissioners  
Lewis County, Idaho

Board of County Commissioners  
Shoshone County, Idaho

Board of County Commissioners  
Valley County, Idaho

Board of County Commissioners  
Missoula County, Montana

Board of County Commissioners  
Mineral County, Montana

Board of County Commissioners  
Ravalli County, Montana

Board of County Commissioners  
Sanders County, Montana

### **Businesses and Organizations**

American Farm Bureau Federation  
Washington, D.C.

American Sheep Industry  
Englewood, Colorado

Associated Press  
Boise, Idaho

Fishing and Hunting News - Editor  
Seattle, Washington

Executive Director  
Friends of the Earth  
Washington, D.C.

Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho  
Salmon, Idaho

Backcountry Horsemen of Montana  
Helena, Montana

Blue Ribbon Coalition  
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Chamber of Commerce  
Ketchum-Sun Valley  
Sun Valley, Idaho

Defenders of Wildlife  
Rocky Mountain Region  
Missoula, Montana

Earth First!  
Bozeman, Montana

Environmental Defense Fund  
Washington, D.C.

Environmental Defense Fund  
Rocky Mountain Office  
Boulder, Colorado

## *Chapter 5 - Consultation and Coordination*

Executive Director  
Gem State Hunters Assoc.  
Homedale, Idaho

Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
Bozeman, Montana

Publisher  
High Country News  
Paonia, Colorado

Humane Society of the U.S.  
Washington, D.C.

Idaho Cattle Association  
Boise, Idaho

Executive Vice President  
Idaho Cattle Association  
Boise, Idaho

Idaho Conservation League  
Sun Valley, Idaho

President  
Idaho Farm Bureau  
Boise, Idaho

Idaho Field Archery Association  
Orofino, Idaho

President  
Idaho Hunters Association  
Homedale, Idaho

President  
Idaho Outfitters & Guides Assoc.  
Boise, Idaho

Idaho Outfitters & Guides License Board  
Boise, Idaho

Idaho State Rifle & Pistol Assoc.  
Meridian, Idaho

Idaho Woolgrowers Assoc.  
Boise, Idaho

Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research  
University of Montana

Intl. Assoc. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies  
Washington, D.C.

Lewiston Morning Tribune  
Lewiston, Idaho

Director  
Montana Department of Agriculture

Montana Farm Bureau

Montana Farmer Stockman

Montana Farmers Union

Montana Guides & Outfitters

Executive Vice President  
Montana Stock Growers Assoc.

President  
Montana Wildlife Federation

Montana Wool Growers Association

National Audubon Society  
Washington D.C.

National Audubon Society  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
Boulder, Colorado

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
Washington, D.C.

National Parks & Conservation  
Rocky Mountain Regional Director  
Salt Lake City, Utah

National Trappers Association, Inc.  
Bloomington, Illinois

National Wildlife Federation  
Washington, D.C.

Executive Director  
National Wildlife Federation  
Central Rocky Mountain Region  
Boulder, Colorado



### *Agencies and Organizations Contacted*

Native American Fish & Wildlife Society  
Broomfield, Colorado

Natural Resources Council of America  
Washington, D.C.

The Nature Conservancy  
Arlington, Virginia

The Nature Conservancy  
Big Sky Director, Montana

Nature Conservancy  
Silver Creek Preservation  
Picabo, Idaho

North American Wild Sheep Foundation  
Boise, Idaho

Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative  
Jackson, Wyoming

Post Register  
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Public Land Associates, Inc.  
Bozeman, Montana

President  
Putting People First  
Washington, D.C.

Executive Director  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Missoula, Montana

Rocky Mountain News  
Denver, Colorado

The Wilderness Society  
Washington, D.C.

The Wilderness Society  
Northern Rockies Regional Office  
Bozeman, Montana

Publications Director  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Washington, D.C.

Chairman  
Wildlife Program Environ. Defense Fund  
Washington, D.C.

The Wildlife Society  
Bethesda, Maryland

The Wildlife Society  
Idaho Chapter  
Boise, Idaho

The Wildlife Society  
Northwest Section  
Boise, Idaho

President  
World Wildlife Fund  
Washington, D.C.

Because of the voluminous number of people and organizations on the mailing list, not all are listed. A complete list of names (addresses may not be released) is available upon request from the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service.