

ONE WEEK LEFT:

Public encouraged to support grizzly restoration efforts in the North Cascades

SEATTLE—Right now, the federal government is accepting public comments on a plan to explore bringing grizzly bears back to the North Cascades—and time is running out to have your voice heard.

Grizzly bears inhabited the North Cascades for thousands of years and it's time to bring them back. The bears are an integral part of our region's rich natural and cultural heritage. The effort to restore the grizzly bear population is science-based and Woodland Park Zoo is optimistic that the return of grizzlies in this vast ecosystem is something we can all get behind.

The zoo encourages the public to submit their comments on the plan [here](#). Public comment on the plan ends **Wednesday, December 14, 2022**, at 10:59 p.m. PST.

Why is it important? Woodland Park Zoo's Paula MacKay, carnivore conservation specialist, and Robert Long, senior conservation scientist and director of the Living Northwest Program, shared the science-based facts in a recent op-ed in The Seattle Times:

“Out on the trail, many people asked us why we should restore grizzly bears. The answer to this question is rooted in the land. Although black bears and grizzlies are closely related omnivores, each has a unique ecological role to play. Both species disperse seeds, for example, but grizzlies also aerate the soil when they dig for food. Given their huge home ranges, diverse diets, sensitivity to roads and varied habitats, grizzly bears are [indicators](#) of healthy, resilient landscapes.”

You can read the full op-ed *Support reintroducing grizzly bears to the North Cascades* by visiting this [link](#).

Woodland Park Zoo is a proud member of the [Friends of the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Coalition](#), advocating the restoration of a healthy population of grizzly bears to Washington's North Cascades Ecosystem.

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