

Resolution of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ICTWS)

Whereas the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has delineated specific portions of the State of Idaho as Critical Grizzly Bear Habitat under Section 7, PL 93-205, the Endangered Species Act and

Whereas this delineation is not supported by recognized experts of the scientific community presently involved in grizzly bear research and management and

Whereas this delineation is not based on the ecological needs of the grizzly bear but, for the most part, on convenient legal land lines and

Whereas the delineation of approximately 800,000 acres of land in the State of Idaho is unnecessary for the protection and preservation of the grizzly bear and

Whereas there is much disagreement among grizzly experts that the species should even be classified as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and

Whereas use of unfounded biological information to delineate critical habitat degrades the purpose of the Endangered Species Act and threatens to weaken it.

Now therefore be it resolved: The ICTWS urges the USFWS to retract its proposed delineation of critical habitat for grizzly bear until such a time that:

- 1) Research by qualified biologists determine actual botanical and/or geographical components of presently occupied grizzly bear habitat and
- 2) Delineation is designed to protect those occupied areas and not encompass large blocks of unoccupied habitat for the sake of convenience in definition.