



**2024 Annual Convention
Ridgefield, Washington**

RESOLUTION #2024 – 44

**“CALLING FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THE NORTH CASCADE
GRIZZLY REINTRODUCTION PROJECT”**

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for natural, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of ATNI are united by salmon; by the Northwest rivers that salmon, steelhead, lamprey, and native fish depend upon; and by the interconnectedness of salmon with their ecosystems – from the orca in the ocean and Puget Sound to the nutrients that salmon supply to the furthest inland streams; and

WHEREAS, the Treaty of Point Elliott (the Treaty), Article 5 The right of taking fish at usual and accustomed grounds and stations is further secured [...] together with the privilege of hunting and gathering roots and berries [...]; and

WHEREAS, the United States v. Washington, 384 F. Supp. 312, aff'd, 520 F.2d 676, commonly known as the Boldt Decision, affirms the retained sovereign right of Tribal Nations to “take fish, [...],” and to” jointly manage these activities with the state and surrounding Tribal nations; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service announced a decision in April 2024 to actively restore grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) to the North Cascades of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the introduction of grizzly bears to the North Cascades would include the translocation of twenty-five grizzly bears from the ecosystems in the Rocky Mountains or interior British Columbia to establish an initial population; and

WHEREAS, the North Cascades reintroduction of Grizzly Bears project is in a unique situation because of its primary food source would be in direct competition with the Treaty reserved right of taking fish; and

WHEREAS, the North Cascades reintroduction of Grizzly Bear project’s pursuit undermines this joint management responsibilities, as determined and affirmed in the Treaty and the Boldt decision, with little input on co-management responsibilities and recourse for Indian Tribes management policies; and

WHEREAS, the management concerns of several Tribes have not been fully addressed, a major concern is climate changes impact of salmon and grizzly habitat and how that may affect resources needed to sustain both bear and fish populations in the North Cascades River systems; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of ATNI are all dependent on salmon and its sustained fishable populations and our duties to protect the salmon and its habitat; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to suspend the reintroduction of grizzly bears in the North Cascades until the following concerns are addressed within field studies that which should include Tribal nation involvement and determination as co-managers:

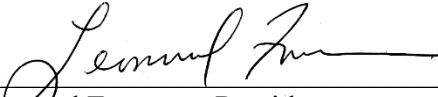
- Demonstration of climate change effects of the snow-level rise impacts on grizzly hibernation and if warmer climates reduce hibernation time
- Infield observational study of how increased grizzly population impacts salmon returns and habitat

- Legislations directing policy development with co-management responsibilities for populations control to the sustainability of fish returns as affirmed in the Boldt Decision, and resulting grizzly populations management if it negatively affects salmon returns; and

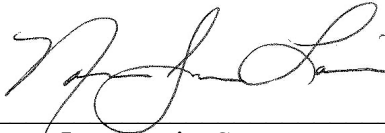
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2024 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians, held at ilani Casino Resort, Ridgefield, Washington on September 29 – October 3, 2024 with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary