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1	JOINT RESOLUTION NO
2	INTRODUCED BY
3	(Primary Sponsor)
4	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5	MONTANA REQUESTING THAT MONTANA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION WORK TO RETURN
6	MANAGEMENT OF MONTANA'S RECOVERED GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATIONS TO THE STATE OF
7	MONTANA AND INITIATE FURTHER REVIEW OF MONTANA'S GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATIONS THAT
8	MEET THE CRITERIA.
9	
10	WHEREAS, the United States Congress authorized the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and
11	WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act defined "endangered species" to mean "any species which is
12	in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range"; and
13	WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act defined "threatened species" to mean "any species which is
14	likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of
15	its range"; and
16	WHEREAS, the grizzly bear was designated as a "threatened species" in the conterminous United
17	States under the Endangered Species Act on July 28, 1975; and
18	WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act was amended by the United States Congress in 1978 so that
19	the new definition of "species" included a "distinct population segment" that interbreeds; and
20	WHEREAS, in 1993, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service revised the Grizzly Bear Recovery
21	Plan, establishing six grizzly bear recovery zones, including the Greater Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Recovery
22	Zone, the Northern Continental Divide Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone, the Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Recovery
23	Zone, the Selkirk Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone, the Bitterroot (Mountains of Idaho and Montana) Recovery
24	Zone, and the North Cascades (Mountains of Washington) Recovery Zone; and
25	WHEREAS, in 1996, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries
26	Service developed a policy to clarify the meaning of "distinct population segment", and the clarification required
27	a distinct population segment to exhibit "discreteness" relative to the remainder of the species and
28	"significance" to the species to which it belongs; and



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1	WHEREAS, Montana has established a strong, effective track record in managing grizzly bears and
2	developed an approved management plan for the Yellowstone distinct population segment that provides for the
3	continued presence and genetic future of grizzly bears on the landscape; and
4	WHEREAS, delisting efforts proposed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the Greater
5	Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone have been ongoing for 11 years; and
6	WHEREAS, the grizzly bear population in the Northern Continental Divide Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone
7	has reached recovery goals and steps have begun to delist grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide
8	Ecosystem; and
9	WHEREAS, congressional action is needed to support a full recovery of distinct population segments
10	while the court system has been used to circumvent the science-based approach to delisting the grizzly bear;
11	and
12	WHEREAS, the continued cycle of delisting and relisting creates a significant loss of social tolerance
13	among Montanans who are adversely impacted by the continued expansion of grizzly bears; and
14	WHEREAS, the State of Montana has been at the vanguard of wildlife conservation since the 19th
15	century, providing the template for what is known as the North American model of fish and wildlife conservation
16	
17	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
18	THE STATE OF MONTANA:
19	That the Legislature supports the delisting of Montana's grizzly bear populations in the Greater
20	Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone and the Northern Continental Divide Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone
21	from the Endangered Species Act, due to United States Fish and Wildlife Service determinations and adopted
22	management plans.
23	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature call on the United States Fish and Wildlife Service
24	to revise the 1993 Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan and reevaluate the Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone efficacy in othe
25	recovery zones, including the Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone, due to public safety and economic
26	challenges.
27	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature supports the efforts of the Department of Fish,
28	Wildlife, and Parks to intervene on the side of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to restore



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service develop a new management plan pursuant to section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act that would aim to resolve conflicts between bears and humans within the Northern Continental Divide Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone and other grizzly bear recovery zones.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature call on Montana's Congressional Delegation to sufficiently fund the United States Fish and Wildlife Service so the agency is able to adequately manage grizzly bears until delisting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature encourage the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to revisit recovery plans for the Cabinet-Yaak and Bitterroot distinct population segments to include the latest science related to genetic connectivity and population targets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, the Governor of the State of Montana, the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the Secretaries of State for the States of Washington, Wyoming, and Idaho, and to each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation.

16 - END -



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