



February 17, 2025

TO: Members of the House Resources and Conservation Committee

HJM4

The Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) is the official voice for all segments of the beef industry in Idaho, from seedstock breeders to commercial operators to cattle feeders. ICA is the grassroots policy development organization for Idaho's second-leading agricultural industry and is unique in that the membership spans to every corner of Idaho. **The ICA supports HJM4 dealing with the delisting of grizzly bears.**

HJM4 calls for the delisting of grizzly bears in the lower 48 states from the endangered species list. We have seen a robust increase in grizzly bear populations. This exists alongside a proven track record of state agencies demonstrating the skill and ability to conserve and manage this population. The recent proposal by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ignores the success of the state-level action and attempts to extend the region under management and maintain the federal government's control.

Grizzly bears are becoming more and more visible in certain areas of Idaho. Specifically, grizzly bear interactions with humans and animals have become more prominent in North Idaho and Eastern Idaho. Recovery efforts over the last decade have prevailed, and the almost extinct bear has grown to a population that crests over 2,000 animals in Idaho, Wyoming, Washington, and Montana. Due to the increasing population, interactions with other animals have caused depredation conflicts to occur.

The ICA supports the State Legislature imploring the federal government to review the Endangered Species Act, it's implementation and interpretation of regulations, and agency policies for effectiveness and legality under the Supreme Court's recent decision overturning the Chevron doctrine in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*.

The ICA stands in support of HJM4.

Sincerely,

Spencer Black
ICA President



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