

**A NORTHERN ROCKIES RESERVE SYSTEM
FOR GRIZZLY BEARS AND OTHER WILDLIFE ^{MAS-CPR}**

Michael G. Bader

Alliance for the Wild Rockies, 1001 S. 4th W. Missoula, MT 59801

Timothy M. Bechtold

The Ecology Center, 1519 Cooper Missoula, MT 59802

We propose a scientifically based Northern Rockies regional reserve system designed to perpetuate landscape-scale ecological processes and viable populations of native species, including wide-ranging mammal predators such as the grizzly bear. Based on population viability analyses and landscape-scale habitat analyses utilizing Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, a network of secure habitat areas comprising more than 140,000 sq. km was delineated. Four essential elements of reserve system design presented by conservation biologist Noss were used: 1) core areas; 2) buffer zones; 3) biological linkage corridors; 4) restoration areas. Economic analyses by economists Power and Garrity demonstrated that

this proposal can be implemented at a net savings to the U. S. taxpayer, a moderate impact on timber industry employment, and with a net gain in overall jobs and improved habitat conditions for numerous aquatic and terrestrial species. The legislative version of this proposal is currently before the U.S. Congress as The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (H.R. 852). An administrative version has been submitted for inclusion in the Bitterroot Grizzly Bear Reintroduction Environmental Impact Statement as "The Conservation Biology Alternative for Grizzly Bear Population Restoration in the Greater Salmon-Selway Region of Central Idaho and Western Montana."