

**WOLVES, GRIZZLY BEARS AND THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT:  
MOVING PAST THE POLARIZATION <sup>TWS</sup>**

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While Yellowstone wolf restoration is a landmark conservation achievement, it is a poor conservation model. The process took too long, it cost too much, and the public remains polarized. The greatest irony may be that wolves are among the easiest endangered species to recover. Their restoration does not cause significant economic impact nor does it require major land use changes. The reintroduction of grizzly bears to central Idaho and western Montana may provide a better conservation model. Conservation groups have collaborated

with local citizens, labor unions and the timber industry to craft a reintroduction proposal that will restore grizzly bears while minimizing impacts on local economies and local people. The centerpiece of this proposal is creation of a Citizen Management Committee that has significant authority for management of the reintroduced bears. Providing citizens a major role in endangered species management may be a breakthrough concept that could increase local acceptance for recovery programs.