

# CLAIMS BY THE SANDERS NATURAL RESOURCE COUNCIL COMPARED TO REALITY

## SNRC Claim

Recent proposed Forest Plans and grizzly bear management will result in “massive” changes in public access to our forests.

Millions of acres of our forests included in Bear Management Units (BMUs) will be “closed” and the public will be “locked out”. BMUs threaten private property rights.

Restrictions on large areas of the forest will mean:

- No Hiking
- No Berry Picking
- No Camping
- No Hunting

Restrictions on large areas of the forest will also mean:

- No Snowmobiles
- No Forestry
- No Mining
- No Roads

A higher density of grizzly bears is planned in the Yaak-Cabinet Recovery Zone than in the Yellowstone ecosystem.

## Reality

Proposed forest plans are based on current management as practiced for many years. The plans do propose a small percentage of road closures in some areas, but no major changes in existing forest management and public access are proposed or contemplated.

BMU’s have been used as a management tool for over 20 years. Proposed management changes in grizzly habitat will be minor, and do not include restrictions on private lands.

This is not true. In reality:

- The national forest is and will be open to hiking everywhere
- The national forest is and will be open to berry picking everywhere
- Forest Service camping areas and regulations will not change
- Hunting regulations are governed by the state Fish Wildlife & Parks agency – not forest plans

This is not true. In reality a majority of our national forest lands are open to all these uses, including grizzly core areas. Some of these uses are restricted in some ways and in some seasons of the year, to protect a variety of multiple uses, including wildlife habitat, recreation, and water quality.

This is not true. The planned density of grizzlies in the Cabinet-Yaak Recovery Zone (1 bear per 26 sq.miles) is just over half of the current density in the Yellowstone ecosystem (1 bear per 15 sq.miles).

**Beware of false and misleading information. Check facts with Forest Service and other agency professionals, or recognized experts. There are no plans for major changes in forest management.**