

**SENATE BILL REPORT**

**SB 6387**

**AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, FEBRUARY 4, 1994**

**Brief Description:** Providing for grizzly bear management.

**SPONSORS:** Senators Owen, Morton, Oke, Sellar, Hargrove, M. Rasmussen and Haugen

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6387 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Owen, Chairman; Hargrove, Vice Chairman; Amondson, Erwin, Franklin, Haugen, Oke, Sellar, Snyder and Spanel.

**Staff:** Ross Antipa (786-7413)

**Hearing Dates:** February 2, 1994; February 4, 1994

**BACKGROUND:**

Grizzly bears are an endangered species that exist in very small populations in remote areas of the state.

Some persons are concerned that only native bears shall be managed, and that introduced grizzlies could be a threat to human safety.

**SUMMARY:**

The Department of Wildlife shall not transplant or introduce grizzly bears into the state. Only native grizzly bears may be managed by the department in areas with suitable habitat.

**EFFECT OF PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE:**

Department of Wildlife grizzly bear management shall only apply to public lands.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** none requested

**TESTIMONY FOR:**

Grizzly bears can cause injury or death to humans and imported bears pose an unknown risk.

**TESTIMONY AGAINST:**

All management tools should be utilized for grizzly bear recovery.

**TESTIFIED:** Rich Wagner, Backcountry Horsemen (pro); Loren McGovern, Backcountry Horsemen (pro); Matt Norton, Greater Ecosystem Alliance (con); Joe Scott, Greater Ecosystem Alliance (con); Ken Lebsack, WA Cattlemen's Assn. (pro); Pat McCourt; Harriet Allen, WA Dept. of Wildlife; Eddie Armstrong, WA State Horse Council (con)