

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO SKAGIT COUNTY'S CONTRACT WITH
THE AMERICAN STEWARDS OF LIBERTY FOR ADVICE ON
REINTRODUCTION OF GRIZZLY BEARS TO THE NORTH CASCADES.**

WHEREAS the Skagit County Board of Commissioners has contracted with the American Stewards of Liberty (ASL) as consultants for advice on the reintroduction of grizzly bears to the North Cascades, (1) and

WHEREAS the mission of ASL is to promote the transfer of federal lands to local control, (1) and

WHEREAS a critical part of ASL's work is to delist species which are protected under the Endangered Species Act whenever the listing impedes development and other uses of private lands, (1) and

WHEREAS granting control of federal lands to local jurisdictions can lead to privatization, (2) and

WHEREAS privatization of federal lands can, and likely will, lead to disregard for stewardship of the land and its wild species, and (2)

WHEREAS Skagit County has committed to pay ASL up to \$5,000 for advice regarding grizzly bear restoration to the North Cascades, and

WHEREAS ASL by its actions demonstrates its opposition to the Endangered Species Act and federal control of public lands, and that it is a political, not a scientific organization, and

WHEREAS the employment of a political advocacy group like the ASL suggests a bias which we are sure the Board of Commissioners does not intend, and

WHEREAS the mission and goals of the ASL are not compatible with the values of Skagit County citizens who value our environment and the wildlife with whom we share it;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Skagit County Democratic Party urges the Board of Commissioners of Skagit County to immediately terminate the contract with ASL and sever all relationship with that organization.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Skagit County Democratic Party urges the Skagit County Commissioners to rely only upon the advice of respected and acknowledged scientists and Skagit County residents regarding the restoration of grizzlies to the North Cascades.