COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, June 01, 2020 10:55:32 AM
Last Modified:	Monday, June 01, 2020 10:55:49 AM
Time Spent:	00:00:17
IP Address:	67.163.42.239

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Laura Kearney

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please help bears

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 01, 2020 8:29:33 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 01, 2020 8:32:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:04
IP Address: 65.131.204.30

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Matt

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Science was used to place grizzlies on the ESA, and they've met their objectives. Let's use science to manage their numbers now. Not once has an animal from the ESA been delisted and then placed back on the list. It's time for Montana to manage their bear populations.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 01, 2020 10:58:15 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 01, 2020 11:03:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:06
IP Address: 69.145.54.1

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Shari Dayton

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

With appreciation for all of your work I would like to suggest that there not be a bear hunting season. I have several reasons, one of which is the possibility of orphaned cubs. Occasionally a hunter will shoot a mother with young cubs, sometimes by mistake. If found, then these cubs are fostered at a cost to the state with the hope that a zoo will take them. There are just a limited number that are able and I am mentioning this one reason to not have hunting allowed.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, June 01, 2020 11:07:34 PM
Last Modified:	Monday, June 01, 2020 11:10:23 PM
Time Spent:	00:02:48
IP Address:	174.208.28.87

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Mark stanley

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Yes we need a bear season

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 5:42:11 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 5:43:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:19
IP Address: 47.213.160.150

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Claire Sefiane

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Grizzlies are keystone species that help shape the ecosystems in which they live. Their numbers should be allowed to fluctuate according to habitat conditions, not some human-conceived population limit. Where grizzlies thrive, so will the wild places in which they live. I am entirely opposed to the idea of allowing trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Allowing trophy hunters to shoot grizzly bears, including deep within Wilderness areas, runs contrary to increasing grizzly bear numbers and allowing the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, June 03, 2020 7:34:25 AM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, June 03, 2020 7:36:15 AM
Time Spent:	00:01:49
IP Address:	184.181.112.91

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Alicia Kern

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I strongly oppose trophy hunting of any kind, including grizzly bears. Please do not allow it!
Allowing trophy hunters to shoot grizzly bears, including deep within Wilderness areas, runs contrary to increasing grizzly bear numbers and allowing the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, June 03, 2020 5:40:39 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, June 03, 2020 5:47:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:24
IP Address: 75.143.220.128

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Ian Donaldson

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Grizzly bears need to be hunted in Montana. During my short spring Bear season, I encountered multiple grizzlies in a relatively small area. I have been charged twice, walked up on by grizzlies, and encountered 20+ in my 9 years of living here. It doesn't need to be general tag open season on them, but do a supertag, or a special draw. The numbers are exploding in MT, the bears are finding their way across the prairies to new mountain ranges. It's only a matter of time that they move into every range in the state. Don't get me wrong, they have every right to roam freely, but the population NEEDS to be managed.

COMPLETE

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Started:	Wednesday, June 03, 2020 5:55:51 PM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, June 03, 2020 5:59:02 PM
Time Spent:	00:03:10
IP Address:	71.32.58.118

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Keith B

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

It’s apparent by the number of grizzly bears across MT that they have recovered and should no longer be considered endangered. A well managed hunting season would be beneficial to both bears and management needs. This should be put in place as soon as possible. Thank you and appreciate the opportunity for input.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Thursday, June 04, 2020 8:31:46 AM
Last Modified:	Thursday, June 04, 2020 8:32:33 AM
Time Spent:	00:00:46
IP Address:	63.153.112.188

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Testing if frozen. Disregard

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 04, 2020 7:33:00 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 04, 2020 7:35:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:00
IP Address: 174.51.97.98

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Trophy hunting is a despicable and should be outlawed. Bears need their heads more than some schmuck needs it on their wall. Grizzlies were almost extinct because of acts like this and if you allow it, it will happen again. Leave bears alone, leave nature alone. Montana, be better than this.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, June 05, 2020 6:29:17 AM
Last Modified:	Friday, June 05, 2020 6:31:00 AM
Time Spent:	00:01:42
IP Address:	174.247.128.158

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Douglas Hunt

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Absolutely need to have a season to manage the Griz population it is out of control and the conflicts have become way to frequent.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, June 05, 2020 5:49:15 PM
Last Modified:	Friday, June 05, 2020 5:50:28 PM
Time Spent:	00:01:12
IP Address:	172.58.22.232

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Tina Brenza

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

The grizzly bears need to be protected!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, June 05, 2020 8:03:07 PM
Last Modified: Friday, June 05, 2020 8:11:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:55
IP Address: 174.24.11.33

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Zbb

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Way to “check the box” with grizzlies. Like the people of Bozeman and California haven’t already made up everyone’s mind. If not, years of litigation and lawsuits will for the trust of Montana residents. But I guess if the R’s pick and choose for climate change it’s acceptable for D’s to pick and choose for wildlife management, (not models, but actual science). Yes I’m in, manage your grizz. Good luck.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, June 06, 2020 5:52:28 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, June 06, 2020 5:53:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:06
IP Address: 97.125.117.21

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am entirely opposed to the idea of allowing trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Allowing trophy hunters to shoot grizzly bears, including deep within Wilderness areas, runs contrary to increasing grizzly bear numbers and allowing the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, June 06, 2020 6:44:07 PM
Last Modified:	Saturday, June 06, 2020 6:45:06 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:59
IP Address:	72.89.107.131

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am completely opposed to the idea of allowing trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Allowing trophy hunters to shoot grizzly bears, including deep within Wilderness areas, runs contrary to increasing grizzly bear numbers and allowing the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, June 06, 2020 8:23:35 PM
Last Modified:	Saturday, June 06, 2020 8:26:08 PM
Time Spent:	00:02:33
IP Address:	107.193.184.186

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Elissa Wagner

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am entirely opposed to the idea of allowing trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Allowing trophy hunters to shoot grizzly bears, including deep within Wilderness areas, runs contrary to increasing grizzly bear numbers and allowing the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival.Grizzlies are keystone species that help shape the ecosystems in which they live. Their numbers should be allowed to fluctuate according to habitat conditions, not some human-conceived population limit. Where grizzlies thrive, so will the wild places in which they live

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, June 06, 2020 8:55:45 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, June 06, 2020 8:56:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:47
IP Address: 72.89.107.131

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am entirely opposed to the idea of allowing trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Allowing trophy hunters to shoot grizzly bears, including deep within Wilderness areas, runs contrary to increasing grizzly bear numbers and allowing the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival.

COMPLETE

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Started: Saturday, June 06, 2020 9:17:06 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, June 06, 2020 9:17:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:27
IP Address: 72.89.107.131

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am 100% opposed to the idea of allowing trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Allowing trophy hunters to shoot grizzly bears, including deep within Wilderness areas, runs contrary to increasing grizzly bear numbers and allowing the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified:	Sunday, June 07, 2020 2:09:12 AM
Time Spent:	00:01:25
IP Address:	47.138.12.119

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Kris gata

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

They are entitled to live, just like the rest of us!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, June 07, 2020 1:57:39 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, June 07, 2020 2:10:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:43
IP Address: 98.127.172.15

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Sue Bury

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

With every new report of a grizzly killed because the animal was food-conditioned, I'm moved to advocate for more dramatic education -- and perhaps even law enforcement efforts -- to get people to stop putting attractants on their property. You'd think everyone in the state would be attuned by now, but even the Billings Gazette carries a bird-feeder column. I realize "cracking down" on bird feeders is an awful public-relations problem, and I don't have any answers. I just hope you're giving the issue careful consideration. Thanks for your work.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 08, 2020 7:59:47 AM
Last Modified: Monday, June 08, 2020 8:09:25 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:38
IP Address: 66.109.158.242

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Sharon Lamar

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

My family and I have lived in grizzly habitat in the Swan Valley for 42 years. We view the grizzly as essential to the wild character of the landscape. Over the years we have co-existed with bears. We have learned to secure our garbage, fence our fruit trees with electric wire, take down our bird feeders in spring - fall, and store our grill indoors.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 08, 2020 8:09:49 AM
Last Modified: Monday, June 08, 2020 8:18:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:20
IP Address: 66.109.158.242

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Sharon Lamar

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

My family and I have lived in grizzly habitat in the Swan Valley for 42 years. We view the grizzly as essential to the wild character of the landscape. Over the years we have co-existed with bears. We have learned to secure our garbage, fence our fruit trees with electric wire, take down our bird feeders in spring - fall, and store our grill indoors. I urge your committee to continue to educate residents in grizzly habitat about minimizing bear/human contact. Also, before grizzlies can be de-listed, a viable plan to connect the two MT populations in the NW (NCDE) and the SW (Greater Yellowstone) needs to be developed. Thanks for your work to ensure the full recovery of the grizzly in Montana.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, June 08, 2020 9:41:43 AM
Last Modified:	Monday, June 08, 2020 9:44:56 AM
Time Spent:	00:03:13
IP Address:	69.145.139.56

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

willaim M ryan

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I think it is time the Grizzly was delisted, and the State of Montana was able to manage these Bears the ay they know will work to protect and control human interaction.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 08, 2020 9:50:02 AM
Last Modified: Monday, June 08, 2020 9:56:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:51
IP Address: 184.166.48.100

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Brian Schott

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Hunting grizzly bears, ever, is a direct insult to all that is good and decent. Please look at the science and sensibility of this. It's just human ego. Our tribes do not want this. It does nothing to 'control' populations or reduce conflicts. Grizzly Bears will not become more "afraid of humans. It just makes me more afraid of humans that there is still continued consideration of hunting grizzly bears in Montana.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 08, 2020 12:13:20 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 08, 2020 12:15:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:58
IP Address: 76.229.125.151

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Kian Daniel

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

If trophy hunting was allowed by the state of Montana, iconic Wilderness areas in Montana like the Bob Marshall, Great Bear, Scapegoat, Lee Metcalf, Absaroka-Beartooth, and Cabinet Mountains Wilderness would no longer be safe havens for the Great Bear.

Grizzlies are keystone species that help shape the ecosystems in which they live. Their numbers should be allowed to fluctuate according to habitat conditions, not some human-conceived population limit. Where grizzlies thrive, so will the wild places in which they live.

Please do not allow hunting for Grizzly Bears in Montana!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 08, 2020 4:54:07 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 08, 2020 4:55:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:58
IP Address: 174.45.106.182

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Susan Bilo

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Grizzly Bear Citizen's Advisory Council: Proactive bear-deterrent measures are not widely adopted or implemented and the grizzly is nowhere near a population level where hunting is a viable option; thus, I am strongly against grizzly bear hunting in Montana as a management tool at this point in time. I understand as an advisory group you lean toward trying to satisfy all citizens, but in today's ecological situation, you must lean more heavily on the side of the bear.

Emphasize a recommendation where resources are provided to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, People and Carnivores, Wildlife Conservation, and Vital Ground for collaboration on multiple projects and programs to include:
A. More progressive education to the general public regarding trash cans, camping safety, and use of bear spray.
B. Train and require hunters to carry bear spray on their belts while hunting.
C. Provide additional revenue to conduct field demonstrations (and/or show videos of existing projects) on how to implement the successful, progressive measures used by Tom Miner Basin farmers and ranchers to deter both grizzly bears and wolves:

1. Portable electric fencing and fladry
2. Range riding and use of guard dogs and donkeys
3. Carcass management
4. Wildlife tracking

D. Develop a policy where the Livestock Loss Board provides more loss compensation to those who proactively implement preventative measure(s) than those who do not (if their situation would obviously benefit from the measures).
E. Encourage Vital Ground and their work to connect grizzly bear habitat.

As the human population continues to increase in Montana and encroach on all habitats, these proactive measures are critical for cohabitation. Business-as-usual and suggestions-as-usual do not serve humans or the ecosystems that support us.

Sincerely, Susan Bilo

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 11, 2020 9:48:02 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 11, 2020 9:59:46 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:43
IP Address: 63.153.31.125

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

The number one priority for the Grizzly Bear Advisory Council is to enhance the genetic health and stability of the grizzly bear population, and this can only be accomplished by re-establishing connectivity of the grizzly bears of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem with the grizzly bear population of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. The other goals of the Council are laudable but the connectivity of the Yellowstone and Northern grizzly bear populations should be the Council's number one priority. It is essential that policies and reforms recommended by the Council further this re-connectivity objective. To fail to do so would squander all the work undertaken to support the grizzly bear population dating back to when grizzly bears were placed on the endangered species list.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:35:25 PM
Last Modified:	Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:39:22 PM
Time Spent:	00:03:57
IP Address:	107.77.206.176

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Lawrence Drummond

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am steadfastly opposed to grizzly bear hunting. The animals need to be left alone, and not be hunted.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:49:13 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:51:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:12
IP Address: 99.73.88.75

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Michele Tusinac

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am entirely opposed to the idea of allowing trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Allowing trophy hunters to shoot grizzly bears, including deep within Wilderness areas, runs contrary to increasing grizzly bear numbers and allowing the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival. It's a cruel act. We are better than this.
Thank you so very much.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:38:29 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:54:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:49
IP Address: 71.15.203.165

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Patricia Simmons

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

The Grizzly Bear is an iconic species of wildlife native to Montana. We need to maintain these bears, their habitat and teach humans who live near them to respect them and do like any business person - spend money to protect their own investment - there are organizations like People & Carnivores that teach ranchers and farmers how to protect their property. There are other organizations that train guard dogs of varying types which can be bought by farmers and ranchers. Garbage cans can be made bear proof for towns, ranchers and farmers. No human should pretend like they are in charge of the Earth and its inhabitants - humans must respect, admire and make their businesses work with the environment.

Grizzly bears need to be able to migrate and move among natural habitat lands without the danger of being killed on roads and by shooters. Spend some money and time planning with the Feds, State, Local governmens and nonprofit organizations to finance and build under and over passes for Grizzlies and other wildlife. This will safe a ton of money spent by citizens to repair their vehicles, and save lives. Figure out wear wildlife moves naturally and use some creativity and ideas from other States and Canada and get this done. Grizzlies need to reproduce with bears from other territories to protect their natural gene pool. Another major reason to get migration paths safely provided.
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks should have a major outreach educational program to teach people from all parts of Montana how to live with Grizzly bears and other wildlife. There is no excuse for long time and new Montanans not to respect, revere and live peacefully with Grizzlies and other wildlife. Work with non profit organizations around the world to figure out how this is done successfully.
As mentioned before all levels of government including Native American Indian Tribes need to work together to respect native wildlife and create solutions. The human has this ability but they need to stop being "overlords" and collaborate. Montana has the wildlife, mountains, prairies, valleys, and other natural resources admired by the World and we have a duty to preserve these outstanding assets that Montanans are lucky to live among. There are also non-profit conservation organizations, some local and some world-wild - they have the know how, the resources, the ability to collaborate and provide ideas and solutions with governments in Montana. Nature Conservancy, American Prairie Reserve, Montana and National Wildlife Federations, World Wildlife, etc. Get this done!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, June 12, 2020 8:29:49 AM
Last Modified: Friday, June 12, 2020 8:30:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:53
IP Address: 91.96.144.74

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Andrea Brown

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

These killing methods have no places in wildlife management, let alone in our National Preserves. Not only are these practices barbaric and unethical, but bears, wolves, and other native predators are an integral part of what makes these places truly wild and they should be free from human manipulation in these Preserves and Wildernesses.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, June 12, 2020 11:35:41 AM
Last Modified:	Friday, June 12, 2020 11:40:24 AM
Time Spent:	00:04:42
IP Address:	69.146.14.116

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Clinton Nagel

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

June 12, 2020

To the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As I write this letter to the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council (GGBAC), I urge them to play particular heed to the comments of scientists who are independent of interference from political whim or financial gain. I urge them to pay attention to the scientist who are committed to seeing the grizzly bear reaching their full potential on the natural landscape. This is how science should be used; to formulate a methodology whereby we in governance, advocacy and management work together to make sure this iconic species is protected by utilizing the best possible science.

One of the main goals by scientists who want to prevent the species from circling that drain of extinction is to make sure we as a people and society formulate "a way out" for these bears. They have much to overcome, habitat fragmentation, loss of habitat, loss of food supply, needless killing by trophy hunters, climate change, etc, etc. We know what the problem is, the key is do we have a will as a people to really do anything about it?

I urge the GGBAC to allow room for this iconic species to roam on the larger landscape, to make those connections available that don't risk death and hostility to the bear. I urge the GGBAC to remember that grazing allotments, fencing, timber cutting, the availability of the wildland-urban interface (WUI), and road densities all are posing danger to the grizzly.

I could pose all kinds of science that backs up my personal view, but I hope many others have already done that. I am pleading as a person who loves to see wildlife remain on their natural habitat. For it is they that make life worth living, to see other life around us, besides the inhumanity to man that is quite evident in our society; it is other life that makes life beautiful. My fear that man's (some men's) greed and selfishness will be the end of life on this planet as we know it. I don't want my generation to allow that to happen.

I would like to see the GGBAC propose a definite plan (a corridor if you will) to promote the bears of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem to re-establish a pathway northward, perhaps multiple pathways northward, to the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. This may mean we need to work with agencies and advocates to support wildlife over passes or under passes for wildlife to cross busy and prohibitive highways and interstates. This may mean we need to support the restrictions of timber cuts and restrictions of the establishment of WUI's and the prohibition of grazing allotments in grizzly bear habitat. Grizzly bears as well as other wildlife species should not be driven out of their natural habitat for grazing purposes or any other purposes. Grizzly bears and other species have a right to these predisposed lands. It is not our right to alter the balance of nature for mankind's sake just because we can.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to comment.

Clinton Nagel

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, June 12, 2020 4:56:32 PM
Last Modified: Friday, June 12, 2020 4:56:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:26
IP Address: 35.138.136.228

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Carol Ohlendorf

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Grizzly bears were once pushed to the brink of extinction in the lower 48 states, so in 1975 they were listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). While some progress has been made over the past 40-plus years to recover grizzly bear populations, today there are still only an estimated 1,500 grizzlies in the contiguous 48 states and they are found within less than 2 percent of their historic range. Grizzly bears have very low reproductive rates and continue to face excessive death rates caused by cars, trains, hunters claiming self-defense, poaching, livestock-related “control” actions, and other heavy-handed management. In fact, the last two years have seen record-breaking grizzly deaths in Montana.

Even though the grizzly bear is still protected by the ESA, the state of Montana is considering allowing trophy hunting of grizzlies once they are de-listed from the ESA. Trophy hunting of grizzly bears would be allowed on public lands, including wild lands within America’s National Wilderness Preservation System and wild public lands immediately adjacent to Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks.

If trophy hunting was allowed by the state of Montana, iconic Wilderness areas in Montana like the Bob Marshall, Great Bear, Scapegoat, Lee Metcalf, Absaroka-Beartooth, and Cabinet Mountains Wilderness would no longer be safe havens for the Great Bear.

Grizzlies are keystone species that help shape the ecosystems in which they live. Their numbers should be allowed to fluctuate according to habitat conditions, not some human-conceived population limit. Where grizzlies thrive, so will the wild places in which they live.

Now is your chance to raise your voice for grizzly bears and tell the State of Montana’s Grizzly Bear Advisory Council that you are entirely opposed to the idea of allowing trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Allowing trophy hunters to shoot grizzly bears, including deep within Wilderness areas, runs contrary to increasing grizzly bear numbers and allowing the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, June 12, 2020 4:57:06 PM
Last Modified: Friday, June 12, 2020 4:57:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:19
IP Address: 35.138.136.228

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Richard Ohlendorf

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Grizzly bears were once pushed to the brink of extinction in the lower 48 states, so in 1975 they were listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). While some progress has been made over the past 40-plus years to recover grizzly bear populations, today there are still only an estimated 1,500 grizzlies in the contiguous 48 states and they are found within less than 2 percent of their historic range. Grizzly bears have very low reproductive rates and continue to face excessive death rates caused by cars, trains, hunters claiming self-defense, poaching, livestock-related “control” actions, and other heavy-handed management. In fact, the last two years have seen record-breaking grizzly deaths in Montana.

Even though the grizzly bear is still protected by the ESA, the state of Montana is considering allowing trophy hunting of grizzlies once they are de-listed from the ESA. Trophy hunting of grizzly bears would be allowed on public lands, including wild lands within America’s National Wilderness Preservation System and wild public lands immediately adjacent to Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks.

If trophy hunting was allowed by the state of Montana, iconic Wilderness areas in Montana like the Bob Marshall, Great Bear, Scapegoat, Lee Metcalf, Absaroka-Beartooth, and Cabinet Mountains Wilderness would no longer be safe havens for the Great Bear.

Grizzlies are keystone species that help shape the ecosystems in which they live. Their numbers should be allowed to fluctuate according to habitat conditions, not some human-conceived population limit. Where grizzlies thrive, so will the wild places in which they live.

Now is your chance to raise your voice for grizzly bears and tell the State of Montana’s Grizzly Bear Advisory Council that you are entirely opposed to the idea of allowing trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Allowing trophy hunters to shoot grizzly bears, including deep within Wilderness areas, runs contrary to increasing grizzly bear numbers and allowing the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, June 14, 2020 2:01:14 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, June 14, 2020 4:31:17 PM
Time Spent: 02:30:02
IP Address: 71.15.197.26

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Karen Williams

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Hello,
I have the following comments re: grizzly bear management. How does hunting facilitate grizzly bear expansion, social tolerance, ensure a recovered population, or reach the goal of grizzly bear connectivity? Is there scientific evidence to support that conclusion? Wouldn't hunting of grizzlies increase human-grizzly conflict? Prior to management as a game animal, would it make more sense to ensure bears have connectivity and full(er) access to habitat.
Overall, proper management of grizzly populations would seem to require co-management and mitigation of habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change related loss of food sources, and the facilitation of connectivity.
Thank you for your consideration
Karen Williams

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, June 14, 2020 6:30:07 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, June 14, 2020 6:32:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:34
IP Address: 174.208.6.18

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Shawn

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please manage the numbers of Grizzlies rather than just shifting them around from one terrorist to the next when they create problems

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 15, 2020 7:56:07 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 15, 2020 7:57:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:12
IP Address: 72.174.135.183

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

sallly brown

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please leave the grizzly bear alone in the small amount of natural habitat it has left. Plenty are being killed without the help of 'hunters'.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:52:58 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:56:06 PM
Time Spent:	00:03:07
IP Address:	47.222.20.28

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

jack poeschl

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

please save this American legend

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 7:49:39 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 7:54:42 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:03
IP Address: 72.83.67.105

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am opposed to allowing trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Allowing trophy hunters to shoot grizzly bears, including deep within Wilderness areas, runs contrary to increasing grizzly bear numbers and allowing the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival. Grizzlys area key element of the maintenance of the balance of life in the wilderness. Trophy hunting is an idea whose time is far in the past and should remain there. It has no place in the modern world.

COMPLETE

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Started: Thursday, June 25, 2020 12:15:51 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 25, 2020 12:19:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:50
IP Address: 24.151.89.39

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Katharine Molnar

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am completely opposed to allowing trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Allowing trophy hunting runs entirely contrary hunters to the purpose of Wilderness areas. We need to allow the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, June 26, 2020 2:30:31 PM
Last Modified: Friday, June 26, 2020 2:31:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:19
IP Address: 107.11.233.76

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

claire watson

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Dear Governor:
I am entirely opposed to the idea of allowing trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Allowing trophy hunters to shoot grizzly bears, including deep within Wilderness areas, runs contrary to increasing grizzly bear numbers and allowing the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival.

Wild animals deserve protection.

Thank you for your consideration.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, June 27, 2020 2:05:29 AM
Last Modified:	Saturday, June 27, 2020 2:08:39 AM
Time Spent:	00:03:10
IP Address:	100.16.102.193

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Bryan Duncan

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please do not allow trophy hunting of the iconic grizzly bear in Montana. Even if de-listed from the Endangered Species Act, grizzlies need more time to continue their recovery. Trophy hunting will be a step in the absolutely wrong direction.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, June 29, 2020 11:50:00 AM
Last Modified:	Monday, June 29, 2020 11:51:08 AM
Time Spent:	00:01:08
IP Address:	69.144.185.218

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Jeff Juel

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am writing on behalf of Friends of the Clearwater, a nonprofit organization defending the Idaho Clearwater Bioregion's wildlands and biodiversity. The Wild Clearwater Country, the northern half of central Idaho's "Big Wild", contains many unprotected roadless areas and wild rivers, and provides crucial habitat for numerous rare plant and animal species including the grizzly bear. Friends of the Clearwater strives to protect these areas, restore degraded habitats, preserve viable populations of native species, recognize national and international wildlife corridors, and bring an end to industrial exploitation of public lands.

Friends of the Clearwater's 800-plus members in and around the Clearwater Basin of Idaho request the members of the Grizzly Bear Advisory Council please keep our concerns in mind as you finalize your recommendations for management of grizzly bears in Montana, and specifically as you contemplate the idea of grizzly bear trophy hunting.

Grizzly bear hunting is not a scientifically supported method of managing a grizzly bear population. Allowing a hunt would set back grizzly bear recovery, tenuous as it still is. In fact there is no scientific consensus that the population is ready for removal from the Endangered Species list. Individual bears attempting to migrate and inhabit historical habitat are the most important for expanding the species' range into places like the Selway Bitterroot Ecosystem recovery zone, where the habitat can support a subpopulation but very few grizzlies now exist because of the legacy of eradication and intolerance. These migrating bears are already vulnerable because of black bear hunting—including the use of baiting stations in Idaho.

The idea of trophy hunting grizzly bears is abhorrent to our values. Friends of the Clearwater maintains solidarity with indigenous peoples and tribal councils, of whom many have stated that hunting grizzly bears dishonors native traditions. Also, the American public has willingly funded longstanding recovery efforts for this iconic wildlife species. It's simply not worth risking relations with so many Americans to stoke the egos of a few hunters.

We also find the idea of funding Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks via sale of grizzly hunting permits to be disgraceful. Wide-ranging wildlife species are not owned by the state of Montana. This is especially true for rare species such as the grizzly, which is slow to reproduce, and which needs to expand its range beyond the Montana state boundary in order to build a robust, truly recovered population.

There have been over twenty documented mortalities of grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem already this year. This unfortunately demonstrates the inability of both Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide adequate public education and enforcement. We urge the Grizzly Bear Advisory Council to focus its recommendations toward public education and away from trophy hunting and delisting.

Sincerely,

Jeff Juel, Montana Policy Director
Friends of the Clearwater
509-688-5956
jeff@friendsoftheclearwater.org
www.friendsoftheclearwater.org

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 29, 2020 3:20:19 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 29, 2020 4:05:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:44:53
IP Address: 174.208.3.62

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Logan

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Hello council I live in red lodge, Mt It is my opinion that grizzly bears have reached a local population that makes hunting a sustainable way to control bear population. I know this may not be a state wide case but in carbon co the numbers don't lie. We as a state should not worry or concern ourselves with the thinking of people that do not live in the state. Grizzlies know the sound of a gun shot means food. It should mean flee! Though a dense population in one area should lead to further bear population expansion. None of this will happen without bears coming into contact with people and other bears. Ultimately resulting in a loss of a bears life. I believe if tags are given out the grizzly population will adapt to being hunted and start to avoid populated areas. Either way a bear is expiring so why can't it be to someone who has paid for that opportunity. I would buy a grizzly tag and I know a dozen people who would as well. My farther would and he hasn't hunted in three years! This is an opportunity to generate revenue with a thriving resource, at least in region five. I know of multiple elk tags I and people I know do not apply for just because of the probiliyty of having a grizzly claim your kill. Thank you for reading and I hope to purchase a grizzly tag this coming hunting season.

Logan.

COMPLETE

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Time Spent:	00:03:57
IP Address:	87.155.255.250

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Michael Noe

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please stop trophy hunting!

COMPLETE

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Started:	Tuesday, June 30, 2020 3:10:57 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, June 30, 2020 3:11:03 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:05
IP Address:	161.7.101.196

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Dillon

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Test

COMPLETE

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Time Spent:	00:00:52
IP Address:	66.232.73.45

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Olivia Shan

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Protect the grizzly. DONT allow trophy hunting.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 01, 2020 8:02:37 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 01, 2020 8:06:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:06
IP Address: 73.241.79.140

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Hudson

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Grizzlies should not be removed from the endangered species list. Fears of grizzlies are overexaggerated. They are a huge source of tourism dollars for Montana, and any livestock lost can be paid for many times over by people coming to visit Montana's WILD countryside. The tourists that come to view FAR outweigh those that come to hunt. Finally, it's morally wrong to hunt and kill these amazing creatures without just cause.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, July 02, 2020 9:43:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:17:22
IP Address: 174.196.9.96

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Donna Cathcart

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Closing 78,000 acres of public land to public use damages the options for bears. Why one family can use that much land in our over populated country is unfair. On the mountain I live on are 8 bears! It has never caused a problem. Montana seems to eager to make money from hunters to the detriment of wildness. Yellowstone is now like Disneyland. It’s empty!! Forest rangers new training is clear cutting and killing whatever Diamond ranch wants! In North Carolina the rangers even have a lottery to pick people who can spend two weeks removing ginseng from the park, 90% of it is already gone. In this state15,000 deer were killed last year. In years to come people will talk about what used to be wild. Will that be Montana too?

COMPLETE

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Last Modified:	Thursday, July 02, 2020 11:05:59 AM
Time Spent:	00:14:03
IP Address:	107.77.209.219

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Lawrence Drummond

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Hunting grizzly bears directly conflicts with MFWP Mgt plan for SW Mt of 2013 and pertinent wildlife organizations. All grizzly bear habitat, man’s deference to it are required for restoration and sustainable population of grizzlies. There is no substitution for courage and vision of environment’s protectors.

COMPLETE

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Last Modified:	Sunday, July 05, 2020 4:47:26 PM
Time Spent:	00:01:37
IP Address:	68.235.235.151

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Martha

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am totally opposed to the idea of allowing trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Allowing trophy hunters to shoot grizzly bears, including deep within Wilderness areas, runs contrary to increasing grizzly bear numbers and allowing the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival.

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, July 06, 2020 10:36:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:19
IP Address: 72.174.64.20

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Carla Abrams

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Dear Council,
I want grizzly bears. I want to maintain a healthy population. I'm proud to live in a state where they exist. I know that a healthy ecosystem for bears is a healthy one for people too.

We need habitat security for grizzly bears. I ask this council to help maintain and strengthen connectivity corridors for bear movement. Grizzly bears are a rare and precious part of the West. The council should require non lethal conflict measures at all times.
NO trophy hunting. The idea is an embarrassment to most people, who do not respect people who want to kill animals and hang them on their wall. Grizzly bears , alive, are a huge boost to the economy of the West. Preserve them, and the West will be preserved.
Carla Abrams

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, July 06, 2020 8:05:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:05
IP Address: 71.15.203.165

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Patricia Simmons

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am thoroughly disgusted and embarrassed that some of your Council members support trophy hunts of grizzly bear and don't even care about protecting an iconic and beautiful mammal native to Montana. Trophy hunting to hang up a coat or head on one's wall rather than feeding one's family with deer, elk, antelope, etc. is like Donald Trump Junior going to Africa and shooting a prized valuable animal to the local community. This was strongly criticized world wide. Montana does not need this publicity. Tourism is number 2 industry in Montana and we need to protect all our native wildlife and their habitat for people to do normal viewing, photographing, hunting for food. Get rid of the old forest roads, restore connectivity to other grizzly bear areas for gene diversity, teach and require all people recreating in wildlands to carry bearspray to protect themselves, educate landowners about guard dogs, and other known methods of protecting private property. Do the right thing and protect our grizzly bear populations. We have climate change upon us which will make it increasingly hard for grizzly to find food (moths, plants and other non-meat foods). If you don't include a consideration of climate change affecting everything in Montana, you are crazy!

COMPLETE

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Time Spent:	00:00:35
IP Address:	76.92.221.12

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Carmen

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

It should be illegal to trophy hunt bears in the United States and the world.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, July 08, 2020 6:31:44 AM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, July 08, 2020 6:35:29 AM
Time Spent:	00:03:44
IP Address:	71.15.194.243

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Richard Newman

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am in favor of retaining endangered species status for grizzly bears in Montana and banning all hunting on them. The reason I believe they need more protection is that global warming is effecting their food sources, such white pine dying off and the moths with them. Which is why they are having more encounters with hunters.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 10:51:18 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:31
IP Address: 69.146.143.154

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

David

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I've been keeping tabs on the meetings and conversations that have been out there for the public to see. I have noticed that what is put out in print appears to be mostly written by the 4 non-supporters of hunting grizzly bears when they are delisted, and what is written is biased for not using that as ONE OF the management tools. For the other 14 folks on the committee please make your voices heard. Please step up to the plate and do not let emotions control how these great animals are managed. Management needs to be considered on science and the North American Wildlife Model that has been used for a long time now. It is extremely critical for the future of these great animals in Montana and states bordering us that also have grizzly bear populations.

Hunting should be One Of the management tools to control grizzly bear populations.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 11:04:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:04
IP Address: 76.178.143.74

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Even if the grizzly bear happens to become delisted, there are very few individuals historically compared to before 1800. This trophy hunt will endanger any broader hopes for the recovery of grizzly populations in regions that have recently received migrant individuals out of Montana (e.g. the Clearwater Basin of Idaho).

With prospects for the long-term recovery of grizzlies tenuous at best, a trophy hunt sends mixed signals.

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Thursday, July 09, 2020 1:36:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:00
IP Address: 24.94.28.117

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Pamela Williams

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am displeased at the preponderance of ranching interests on this council. Like Idaho, ag interests have an outsized voice and influence. Under no circumstances do I support a hunt of grizzlies, regardless of what the excuse is. As human beings, we must modify our practices to prevent conflicts and not expect this wild species to accommodate us. I am gravely concerned about the lack of connectivity between the sparse populations and the negative genetic effects of the isolation. I want vibrant and intact ecosystems, and I want wildlife free of harassment and manipulation. Please give those of us who actually like and value wildlife a voice in how these creatures are treated. Honesty, I would get down on my knees and beg you if I thought it would make a difference. That’s how important this is to me.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 10, 2020 8:04:44 PM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 10, 2020 8:04:58 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:14
IP Address:	207.153.13.244

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Mandie Flint

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

m

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 12, 2020 7:48:13 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 12, 2020 7:57:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:04
IP Address: 65.130.213.113

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

csc

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Grizzlies are keystone species that help shape the ecosystems in which they live. Their numbers should be allowed to fluctuate according to habitat conditions, not some human-conceived population limit. Where grizzlies thrive, so will the wild places in which they live. Grizzlies have a very low reproduction rate. Grizzlies are also faced with being hit by cars, trucks, trains, and more often than not, are poached illegally.
Grizzlies must continue to be protected.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, July 13, 2020 6:21:52 PM
Last Modified:	Monday, July 13, 2020 6:24:11 PM
Time Spent:	00:02:19
IP Address:	63.153.13.79

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Stephanie Adams

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

July 1, 2020

Governor's Grizzly Bear
Advisory Council
1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Re: Montana Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Members of the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council,

On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), we appreciate the opportunity to submit the following comments for consideration in the development of the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council's recommendations. We commend the members of the Council for the time, energy, and thoughtfulness that you have put into developing recommendations for grizzly bear management in Montana. We hope that your work will form the basis of the development of a new statewide bear management plan for Montana that creates a path forward for more coordinated bear management across the state. For grizzlies to thrive over the long-term there will need to be careful limits on their mortality, as well as management practices to ensure bears have access to important habitat and resources.

NPCA's mission is to protect and enhance America's national park system for present and future generations. NPCA and our more than 1.2 million members and supporters have a long history of advocating for the conservation and recovery of grizzly bears as valued wildlife in Glacier, Yellowstone, and Grand Teton national parks and across the broader ecosystem. With staff based in Whitefish and Bozeman, NPCA is dedicated to working with communities and wildlife managers to find commonsense solutions that ensure the long-term conservation of the grizzly bear while limiting disruptions to how people live, work, and recreate in the region.

NPCA Comments on the Draft Recommendations:
NPCA would like to raise the following feedback specific to the draft recommendations that have been developed so far by the Council:

Vison: The Council's vison of "a fully recovered grizzly population in the four recovery zones located in Montana and landscapes in-between that accommodate grizzly bear presence and facilitate connectivity" is exactly the type of vision that should form the foundation of a statewide management plan. Species do not thrive in the long run when they are managed in isolation or as small fragmented populations. The genetic isolation of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) grizzly bears remains a threat to the recovery of this population. A management plan that strives for connectivity between the GYE and Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) populations is the next logical step in the recovery process – one of the key steps that should occur before the species is removed from federal protections.

We appreciate that the Council recognizes that grizzly bears are already a part of life for many communities in the region and these communities are finding ways to reduce conflicts. Nevertheless, as bears venture between the two ecosystems they will move through and into regions that have not had grizzlies as part of the landscape for decades. Since bears are opportunistic, they may utilize whatever food or habitat is available and occasionally this may result in conflict. Fortunately, as we see in many Montana communities, when measures to prevent bears from obtaining human-related foods are combined with thoughtful planning, responsive management, and community engagement, bears and people can and do coexist.

The exact abundance and distribution of grizzlies will be somewhat fluid as changes occur on the landscape, climate change modifies habitat, and conflict prevention/mitigation creates opportunities for dispersal. Montana will always need to ensure grizzly bear populations remain at levels sufficient to prevent the need for relisting under the Endangered Species Act. NPCA urges the Council to

not provide recommendations related to abundance and distribution, but rather focus on recommendations and a vision that is proactive in reducing and mitigating conflicts no matter the abundance and distribution of the species in the state.

Education and Outreach: NPCA appreciates the numerous recommendations that the Council has developed to expand and increase coordination to enhance education and outreach related to grizzly bears. Continuing to find ways to create unified outreach and education will further increase the efficancy of programs within the region. Increased coordination amongst the agencies and entities that engage in outreach and education, as well as coordinated messaging with further increase the effectiveness of these efforts. We also support the establishment of an expanded comprehensive Bear Aware program that encourages communities to be proactive as bears return to the landscape.

Grizzly Bear Distribution: Once again, we encourage the Council to not focus on placing limits or defining where distribution should be tolerated, but instead should focus on how managers and communities can work together to reduce conflict when bears are in an area. Bears should not be prevented from using habitat unless conflicts become insurmountable. NPCA recognizes that grizzlies are opportunistic, and as they move into areas where they have been absent for decades bears will utilize a variety of food resources and habitats. This could occasionally lead to human-bear conflict. Fortunately, bears and people can and do coexist as we see in many portions of the state. The likelihood of successful coexistence greatly increases when measures to deter bears from using human-related food sources are implemented along with sound conservation science, thoughtful planning, responsive management, education, and community engagement.

As bears move into new habitat, the ability of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks staff to be responsive will have a large impact on where bears can successfully be on the landscape. Funding additional bear management specialists in key geographies to support residents and communities in preventing, reducing, and addressing conflicts with grizzlies is a key part of successful bear management. Adding more bear management specialists in communities between the NCDE and GYE will greatly improve the chances of successful connectivity between these ecosystems and reduce conflicts. Establishing additional boots on the ground will require funding and support for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Bear management specialists:

- Provide outreach and education to private landowners, answering questions and concerns and helping minimize conflicts with bears.
- Respond quickly when conflicts occur by capturing and relocating, or lethally removing, conflict bears when necessary.
- Assist with procuring and placing electric fencing and other deterrent devices at lambing/calving areas, pastures or refuse disposal sites.
- Help relocate or remove dead livestock as needed, so these carcasses do not attract bears to human-use areas such as around ranch buildings or occupied grazing pastures.

Connectivity: NPCA commends the Council for emphasizing that “connectivity is vital to the long-term sustainability, persistence, and resiliency of grizzly bears”. The best chance for long-term connectivity success is natural connectivity- when bears are able to find their own way between populations. Agencies have tried to achieve genetic connectivity for species through human-assisted relocation -physically capturing and moving a bear between ecosystems. This approach in higher bear density ecosystems has proven to be less effective with the reduced survival rate of bears that have been forcibly placed in unfamiliar habitat and bears that attempt to return to the area they came from. Such relocation efforts are also subject to changing political commitments and shifting funding priorities, making them unreliable as a long-term method to achieve connectivity. This does not mean bears should not be relocated in adjacent regions to prevent conflict or that efforts to augment lower density populations such as the Cabinet-Yaak population should not continue, but efforts to ensure genetic connectivity between the GYE and NCDE populations should prioritize natural connectivity.

NPCA urges the Council to not use the term connectivity zones, but rather focus on continued efforts to identify areas of likely connectivity. Within wildlife management, zones often imply areas of tolerance or lack of tolerance and could lead to less resources or engagement for the areas outside the designated “zone” even if bears are in that area. By using research and information on grizzly bear movements, scientists have developed predictive models of where grizzly bears might be expected to move within Montana. These models suggest that male grizzly bear movement between the two ecosystems could result in a variety of potential routes. However, it is important to recognize that as with most wildlife, bear movement may not strictly follow predicted pathways and managers anticipate that occasional bear movement could occur almost anywhere across western Montana. It is therefore important

that community outreach and conflict prevention not be limited solely to "connectivity zones", but rather be adaptive to how bears are using the landscape.

As noted in the draft recommendations, there is a need to work with Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and the Federal Railroad Administration to reduce mortalities associated with transportation infrastructure, facilitate movement, and enhance public safety. Fortunately, MDT and FWP have recently committed to working together and with other stakeholders to address wildlife vehicle collisions within Montana. There are also opportunities on the horizon for increased federal funding to incorporate mitigation infrastructure on highways. Recommendations for reducing transportation obstacles:

- Transportation departments should be included in interagency coordination meetings so they can incorporate connectivity needs into their long-term project planning and designs.
- Interstate 90, which runs between the NCDE and GYE grizzly populations and is a major barrier to connectivity, should be assessed by MDT and FWP to determine the best locations for wildlife crossings that will promote bear connectivity.
- A review of best practices and lessons learned from roads that include wildlife crossings, such as Banff Alberta and Highway 93 from Evaro to Polson, Montana, will help determine best locations and designs for wildlife crossings, improved signage, and other collision mitigation technologies.
- Regional and national elected officials should encourage Congress to ensure wildlife-vehicle collision reduction technologies are broadly integrated into the next reauthorization of the federal highways bill. This will empower state and federal agencies to address the safety of the traveling public and the needs of grizzlies and other migratory wildlife.

Relocation: Some bears may need to be relocated if conflict arises. To ensure relocation does not hinder the potential for connectivity, public land management agencies should coordinate ahead of time to identify appropriate relocation sites within the connectivity areas to relocated bears that come into conflict. This will make it possible to both promote connectivity and manage bears that encounter conflict while they disperse between previously fragmented populations. Managers should work with local communities ahead of time to build understanding of why bears are sometimes relocated, ensure communities have an understanding of where bears could be relocated, and address any concerns that could arise ahead of time.

Conflict Prevention: Across the region communities, landowners, and bears coexist. However, as with many species conflicts can arise. Whenever humans or livestock come into conflict with bears, management action by a bear management specialist should always be part of the solution. The management response must be consistent between the recovery ecosystems and the areas of potential connectivity in between. This will create consistency in how bears are managed on the landscape.

Conflict bear standards, which are a set of guidelines for how a manager should address different types of conflicts, should be developed through state management plans for the landscape where connectivity is likely to occur. These standards should also be built into future post-delisting grizzly management plans.

Management of all conflict bear situations should emphasize removal or securing the cause of the conflict, when possible; or management and education actions to limit such conflicts. These responses should recognize landowner needs while helping to remove or secure the cause of the conflict when possible. If conflict does occur, the management response should include outreach and assistance to limit future conflicts. Recommendations for conflict bear standards:

- Bears displaying unnatural aggression should be removed from the population.
- Bears displaying natural aggression should not be removed unless management authorities feel that the circumstances warrant removal. This decision should be made by management authorities after considering the cause, location, and severity of the incident.
- Bears displaying food conditioning and/or habituation should either be relocated or removed based on specific details of the incident. This judgment should be made by management authorities after considering the cause, location, and severity of the incident.
- Bears could be preemptively moved when they are in areas where they are likely to come into conflict with site-specific human activities, but only as a last resort. Preemptive moves should not be used to preclude or manipulate bear distribution.
- Bears should be relocated as many times as judged prudent by management authorities.
- If a bear is preying on livestock grazing on public lands through a grazing permit, the bear should not be lethally removed unless it has already been relocated at least once.

Public land management planning in areas of grizzly bear distribution or potential connectivity should ensure guidance for management of proposed projects or uses so they minimize impacts on grizzly bear habitat and distribution. Thoughtful planning is the only way to ensure quality habitat viability and reduce loss of use, avoid displacement of bears, and reduce risks of bear mortality while balancing

ensure quality habitat viability and reduce loss of use, avoid displacement of bears, and reduce risks of bear mortality while balancing a variety of uses on public lands. These uses include recreation, timber harvest, grazing allotments, and mining. Recommendations for public land resource projects:

- Avoid management actions such as extensive new timber harvest or mineral development in key movement corridors such as riparian zones.
- When planning timber harvests, avoid riparian areas and use techniques other than clear cutting to avoid loss of visual cover.
- Minimize creation of new or temporary motorized access routes into habitats that provide food and security for bears.
- When unavoidable, new roads should be low standard and temporary, existing only for the duration of the project. Timber harvest roads should be gated and used only for timber harvest and administrative use before, during, and after the sale and until such time as the road is removed.
- When the project is complete, remove roads from the landscape and re-contour so these roads do not become recreational routes or increase soil erosion.
- Timber harvests on public lands should include budgets and timelines for road gating and road removal. This will ensure that funding does not become a limiting factor to necessary road and gate maintenance and removal upon sale completion.
- Public land management agencies should not increase the numbers of grazing animals on existing public land grazing allotments where past conflicts have occurred and should not establish new allotments in potential connectivity pathways.
- When there is a strong potential for conflict or history of it in that area, agencies should consider retiring public land grazing allotments with a history of conflicts that have been voluntarily relinquished by the allotment holder.
- Road development within public lands can increase the potential for conflicts and displacements of bears. Federal planning documents should specify details on how roads will be managed, particularly new or temporary roads built for timber harvest or other resource extraction. Plans should describe the desired future condition of these public lands to ensure wildlife connectivity.
- Road planning for resource projects should also include requirements for maintaining visual cover. These strips of trees and brush that limit visibility are especially important in riparian zones, which often function as irreplaceable travel routes and bedding areas for bears and other wildlife. The need is greatest in drier habitats where timber and shrub cover is already minimal. Maintaining visual cover is of highest priority when timber harvest and vegetation management occurs near existing roads.

Ensure recreational users are engaged as to how to recreate safely in bear country, from hunters and hikers to mountain bikers and runners. Agencies should work together and with other stakeholders to develop polices and outreach materials to reduce potential conflict. Recommendations for Recreation:

- Managers should consider and evaluate bear habitat when planning new trails to situate the trail away from wildlife travel corridors like riparian zones and key habitats such as berry shrub fields. When feasible, existing trails should also be modified to avoid key habitat and prevent conflict.
- Where possible, focus trails and trailhead facilities (parking lots, picnic areas and pit toilets) in front country areas to minimize development in backcountry core habitat.
- Raise user awareness by posting signs at trailheads with safety tips for recreating in bear country, including encouraging all users to carry bear spray.
- At trailheads where recreationists might access backcountry areas, post signage that explains proper food storage, camp site management, and waste disposal.
- Surprise encounters increase the chance of conflict, and at higher speeds surprises are more likely. To reduce the risk, those designing or modifying mountain bike trails can consider design features that reduce the speed of travel in key areas. These features can include building in switchbacks instead of banked curves, avoiding steep downhills, and incorporating obstacles to slow travel.
- Sight lines that are long enough to allow for safe travel while maintaining adequate hiding cover for wildlife will also reduce surprise encounters.
- The number of trail miles in any given area should be kept at low levels to allow for potential and continued use of high value habitat by bears.
- Recreation levels should be monitored on an annual basis. Any increases should be managed to allow wildlife to travel through important corridors. This will reduce the potential for human-bear conflicts. For instance, in Glacier National Park managers have seasonally closed some trails like Iceberg Lake or implemented managed entry onto trails (i.e., every 15 minutes), giving wildlife opportunities to cross the trail undisturbed.

Resources: The success of grizzly bear management in Montana heavily depends on the availability of diverse and stable funding sources to support education and outreach as well as conflict prevention and mitigation. We appreciate that the Council recognizes this need and has developed a comprehensive set of recommendations of how to secure funding. Conservation groups have an

important role to play in advocating for additional funding at both the state and federal level. NPCA is committed to working with managers and stakeholders to continue to advocate for increased funding.

We would encourage the Council to look to many of the funding opportunities outlined in the recommendations rather than advance a fee associated with national park visitation. National parks face funding challenges of their own including a $12 billion deferred maintenance backlog, reductions in staffing, and already have more resource needs than is met by appropriations or fee collection. Regional parks such as Yellowstone and Glacier put substantial resources into wildlife management that benefits the surrounding region including grizzly bear management. Adding a fee to park visitation impacts the ability of national parks to consider their own fee increases. National parks are incredibly important economic drivers to the region. Rather than looking to add additional fee to entrances, NPCA would encourage the Council to consider how fees that are already associated with visitors -such as the bed tax- could be allocated to conflict prevention.

From the significant role grizzlies play in the culture of Native Americans to the bear serving as Montana's state mammal, grizzlies are part of what defines our identity in Montana. The species is also a draw that helps drive the region's thriving tourism economy. Committing resources, planning, and community collaboration will help us move together toward the goal that is shared by many across the region- a grizzly population that is healthy and resilient enough to be here for our children and grandchildren. Thank you for considering our feedback.

Stephanie Adams,
Northern Rockies Associate Director

Sarah Lundstrum,
Glacier Program Manager

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Q1

Name (optional):

Katie Bilodeau

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am writing to encourage you to reject the trophy hunting idea this council is considering. Hunting is not a scientifically sound way to manage small populations. It will also ensure that grizzly bears don't recover to the Bitterroot Ecosystem, as solo migratory bears will likely be shot. The Bitterroot Ecosystem is key to recovering these species; it connects the Cabinet-Yaak and North Cascades with the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Grizzlies are miles from recovery, but healthy populations will include bears that can travel between these areas. Trophy hunting risks destroying the individuals that might have otherwise migrated and spread their genetic diversity.

I live in Idaho, but grizzlies don't know these arbitrary lines. A grizzly could wander our rugged border to find herself in Montana one day, in Idaho the next day, and Montana the third day. I would expect my Montanan counterparts to apply pressure to Idaho about poor ideas that involve wildlife that call our states home.

Trophy hunting undermines this great iconic Western wildlife. Grizzly bears are part of this continent's natural history. *Trophy hunting*, by its very nature, is distinguishable from someone who hunts to feed themselves or their family--trophy hunting is unnecessary. Although I don't hunt, I respect hunting as a food source. I do not respect trophy hunting.

Trophy hunting grizzlies would desecrate a species that many Native American Tribes and individuals within those Tribes hold sacred. The white race has taken other sacred species, such as salmon and wild buffalo, to the brink of extinction, too. If our society can bring grizzly bears back from that brink, we could demonstrate respect for the wildlife and the people who have called this continent home since time immemorial. We could continue expressing that respect by rejecting trophy hunting, an activity that would walk all over what many Tribes and Native Americans hold sacred.

Finally, rejecting the idea of trophy hunting is Montana's chance to lead as a true role model. I'm very aware that Idaho and Wyoming had grizzly trophy hunts lined up the moment the Ninth Circuit might have removed Endangered Species Act protections. Fortunately, the grizzly bears will stay protected for now. This is Montana's chance to show a more responsible and respectful approach than its neighbor-states towards nature and the wildlife that define this continent. Be the role model you have a chance to be and reject trophy hunting.

Thank you for considering these views.

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Time Spent:	00:05:27
IP Address:	50.37.137.241

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Q1

Name (optional):

Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

July 16th, 2020

Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council,

The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) is dedicated to connecting and protecting one of the last ecologically intact mountain ecosystems in the world, so people and nature can thrive. To achieve this vision, we have worked with over 400 diverse partners in the US and Canada. Y2Y is a science-based organization, and much of our work in the US focuses on reconnecting grizzly bear populations through protecting public and private lands, supporting good public lands management, making highways safer for people and wildlife, and reducing conflicts between people and wildlife.

We appreciate the council's hard work and dedication to this process and recognize the value of a diverse group coming together and finding solutions to tough issues. Your recommendations will likely influence statewide, and possibly federal policies affecting grizzly bears, and the people who live, work, and recreate among them. The council has a unique opportunity to set priorities for connectivity, conflict reduction, and public and private land management. We are encouraged by your progress thus far, and believe in your collective ability to bring a set of effective recommendations forward by this fall.

Our team has reviewed the draft recommendations put forth by the council and overall, we believe the council is on the right track and discussing very important, and sometimes difficult, issues. Below we outline the recommendations Y2Y supports from the working group draft framework documents (first and second drafts). Our recommendations are focused on transportation, public lands, private lands, and conflict reduction. Thank you for considering these comments as the council develops recommendations for grizzly bear management in Montana.

Grizzly Bear Management

First, we support the recommendation that Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) develop a statewide management plan for grizzly bears that incorporates areas of protected public lands and areas that promote connectivity. The health and long-term vitality of grizzly bears in Montana relies on grizzly bear populations being connected across the state. In order for this to be achieved, bears must have the ability to move safely across large areas, often near where people live. This presents challenges and opportunities. We are happy to explore opportunities to ensure that areas are permeable in a way that works for Montana communities and wildlife.

We support the recommendation to develop and update bear translocation protocols that support connectivity. This would include using best available science to define areas of high conservation value within Montana and areas that facilitate reconnecting grizzly bear populations in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, and allowing bear managers to relocate grizzlies into these areas in a way that is safe and appropriate. In these areas, connectivity would be proactively encouraged through management actions, monitoring, and public communications.

Transportation

We support the recommendation to increase collaboration between Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) to develop wildlife crossings where roadways are a barrier to grizzly bear populations reconnecting. This should be coordinated with the Montana Wildlife and Transportation Steering Committee's efforts. To be most effective, we recommend identification of priority areas for improving grizzly bear safe wildlife passage across highways, support for infrastructure that allows grizzly bears to safely cross highways, consideration of private land conservation to increase the effectiveness of wildlife crossings, and funding for wildlife crossing structures and maintenance. Some version of this recommendation

was included in the draft framework documents produced by all five working groups, and we hope to see strong consensus on this recommendation from the council moving forward.

Y2Y can help implement transportation projects through engaging experts to help design transportation projects, and by providing resources to achieve wildlife and human safety objectives in transportation. Y2Y has been involved in successfully developing and implementing wildlife crossings and other safe passage projects across the region.

Private Lands

We encourage the council to support private land conservation by working with willing landowners in areas important for maintaining connectivity or reconnecting grizzly bear populations, and to support funding mechanisms and incentive programs for private land conservation in areas key for connectivity. In these areas, Y2Y may be able to help raise funds necessary for permanent protections on private lands. We have experience successfully raising funds and working with land trusts and willing landowners to conserve private land linkages in the US and Canada.

Conflict Reduction

We encourage the council to support providing additional resources to grizzly bear information, education, and outreach (IE&O) efforts. This includes a long term and reliable funding source for these efforts. We also support the creation of standardized language, practices, and tools around grizzly bear IE&O. This would eliminate the amount of unique and sometimes conflicting information available, and provide a consistent message to hunters, recreationists, landowners, and others spending time in bear habitat to help reduce conflicts between people and grizzly bears.

We would also like to see the council support full funding for bear management specialists and technicians, so that important outreach and education work in Montana communities continues and expands where needed. Funding for these positions will allow managers to effectively, efficiently, and quickly address conflicts when they occur, and preemptively prevent conflicts from happening. This includes creating new, fulltime, funded positions where needed.

At the residential level, we support a recommendation to establish consistent state-wide community guidelines and protocols for keeping urban and residential areas free from conflicts with bears, including an incentive program that encourages Montana communities to join a program that helps cities and towns abide by these guidelines. We also recommend creating an incentive program for increasing participation from individual landowners who live in communities that have not yet adopted the program.

Similarly, we support recommending development of a bear aware/smart tourism and recreation plan that celebrates grizzly bear recovery and addresses conflict zones. This plan should address appropriate management tools for maintaining responsible recreation activities in grizzly bear habitat. This could be implemented through FWP and in partnership with the Montana Office of Tourism, Travel and Vacation. We also recommend this plan include guidelines for short-term vacation rentals. We see a potential opportunity for FWP and/or the Office of Tourism to partner with companies such as Airbnb and VRBO on this effort.

We also support providing homeowners and rental agencies with access to agencies and nonprofit groups who can assist with implementing tools to bear-proof attractants.

At the municipal level, we support a recommendation to create sanitation and waste guidelines for municipalities, including requiring municipalities to secure garbage containers and waste transfer stations.

Public Lands

On public lands, we support standardizing all food storage requirements across state and federal lands in Montana. This could come

through a recommendation by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC).

We also support the increased protection of large intact habitat areas on public lands, including roadless areas.

Science and Funding

We would like to see the council consider two additional recommendations related to science and funding. First, that the state of Montana works collaboratively with other stakeholders to asses and establish new funding mechanisms to support grizzly bear conservation and management, including funding for conserving private lands important to connecting grizzly bear populations. Second, to support further research on linkage areas between Montana and Central Idaho, and research on which communities will most likely face conflicts in the near future as grizzly bear populations expand.

Y2Y is a partnership organization, and we understand that working together is key for achieving conservation at a scale that matters to nature. For each of these recommendations, where appropriate, our organization would enthusiastically help with fundraising, capacity building, and bringing together experts to address these issues. We know there are many agencies, groups, and individuals across Montana who care deeply about grizzly bears and protecting our way of life while living with grizzly bears. If we all come together, we can make a lasting, positive change for the health and vitality of Montana communities and the ecosystems in which we live.

Thank you for considering these comments. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please reach out to either of us.

Sincerely,

Jessie Grossman

Cabinet Purcell Project Coordinator

Jessie@y2y.net

Nick Clarke

High Divide Project Coordinator

nick@y2y.net

Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

P.O. Box 157

Bozeman, MT, 59771-0157

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I believe that there is sufficient scientific evidence that indicates that hunting is not the best way to manage grizzly bear populations. I hope you utilize the best information available in making your decision.

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Started: Friday, July 17, 2020 3:00:01 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 17, 2020 3:14:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:43
IP Address: 69.144.225.4

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Harold Johns

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I grew up in St.Ignatius, MT. We always had grizzlies. They were not a problem there as any grizzlies that got out of mountains were at least shot at. For this reason they were not a problem. The were never threatened with extinction. The Mission mountains always had grizzlies, over the hill, Swan valley always had grizzlies, The Bob Marshal Wilderness always had grizzlies, south fork, middle fork, north fork of the Flathead always had grizzlies and north into the park in Canada.
I would never hunt them but they need to be hunted. Tame grizzly bears like we have in the Mission valley are a pain in the ass. You have to carry bear spray in back yards in some areas, particularly at night. They don.t need to migrate. Montana FWP captures hundreds annually for research purposes. Borrow some to get them started.

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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Susan Westervelt

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

There is not enough known about the recovery of Grizzly Bears in the lower 48 states to justify hunting. Killing Grizzlies at this point would be trophy hunting, which is abhorrent. It is not a scientifically supported method of managing the Grizzly population, and would set back recovery. Individual bears attempting to migrate and thus inhabit unoccupied habitat are especially vulnerable to killing by hunters.

Wide-ranging wildlife species are not owned by any state, and the State of Montana must not be allowed to make final decisions about killing Grizzlies. The great bears must be allowed to expand their range across state boundaries in order to build a robust, truly recovered population.

I stand with indigenous people, who believe hunting of Grizzly Bears dishonors their native traditions.

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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Charles Branch

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

A former fish biologist on the Clearwater and Tongass National Forests, I observed the US Fish & Wildlife Service project to artificially reintroduce wolves to western Montana and northern sections of Idaho with dismay, as we knew in 1979 that wolves were recolonizing the Pierce Ranger District and elsewhere all by themselves. The grey wolf should have been left alone, and would have done fine with a slower process of out-migration of younger animals forming new packs. Natural mortality takes much of a migrating young population, which provides more time for education and development of coexistence with our new neighbors. The same is true for grizzly and brown bears. I can recall reading the news of grizzlies camped out in a Montana cornfield in the Flathead, while working on a sockeye salmon weir camp in SE Alaska. We laughed when reading that the state's solution to allow the farmer to harvest the field was to surround it with an electric fence. That's great as it works to keep bears away from tents and cabins, too. The only problem with that Montana application was that several bears remained corralled in the cornfield.

Trophy hunting will not help the bears, rather it removes prime healthy animals and their genetics from the breeding population, and given the slow population growth of bears, and maturation of the young, is to be avoided. If any hunting is to be done, it should be limited to depredation hunt permits to harvest the problem omnivores on private farms and ranches. They might like the sweet smell and taste of alfalfa hay as much as elk.

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IP Address:	69.144.199.51

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Dear Grizzly Bear Advisory Council Members,

I am writing to urge that any final Council recommendations reject trophy hunting of grizzly bears, require non-lethal conflict prevention measures, call for improving habitat security by removing old, deteriorating forest roads, and direct the state to identify protected corridors that allow bears to migrate safely between recovery areas.

We are in the midst of both a climate crisis and the sixth great extinction, and protecting grizzly bear habitat and connectivity for movement of bears is essential to their survival. Grizzly bears have very large home ranges, up to 500 hundred square miles. Within these areas, wildlife biologists have identified paths that bears will likely take as they migrate out of their home range to seek new habitat and food sources. It is crucial that we protect grizzly bears within these corridors, because they allow dispersal, return to historic range, and genetic exchange, which is necessary for recovery.

Grizzly bears need protection from human-caused mortality and from a whole host of harmful uses that threaten their survival including roads, logging, mining, human development, grazing, and recreation. Significantly, one of the five recovery zones in the Northern Rockies, the Bitterroot, remains officially unoccupied, although there have been recent documented sightings of individual bears returning. We must ensure grizzly bears can repopulate this zone, and moving safely between all recovery areas is crucial for the bear's future survival. Montana has the opportunity to identify specific grizzly bear corridors and provide specific management recommendations for protection that will ensure their full recovery.

The Council must also recommend improving the security of grizzly bear habitat. The science is clear that forest roads and motorized trails harm grizzly bears in a number of ways. Experts have established that bears need areas with low road and motorized trail densities because roads increase vehicle strikes and illegal harvest, and their use chases bears away. Roads and motorized trail use cause bears to avoid habitat they need to recover. The Council should recommend the U.S. Forest Service: 1) adopt specific road and motorized trail density standards of less than 1 mile per square mile, and 2) work to remove old, deteriorating roads within grizzly bear habitat and migration corridors.

Further, grizzly bear recovery requires measures that encourage non-lethal coexistence with people and communities. The Council must recommend that anybody who lives where grizzly bears are, may be, or may travel through, must take proactive conflict prevention measures, including electrified fencing where appropriate (bee hives, chicken coops, calves, lambs, fruit trees, etc.), use of bear dogs or other guard animals, relocation of livestock away from dens, use of range riders, etc. No agency should provide support for predation or other conflict without evidence of the use of such conflict prevention measures.

Finally, a recent national poll showed that 68% of Americans oppose trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Indeed, the experts the Council consulted confirmed that hunting neither reduces conflicts nor increases social acceptance. The only certainty is that trophy hunts will inflame public sentiment, give Montana a black-eye, and demonstrate the state's complete indifference to Tribal Nations that view the Great Bear as sacred. The Council must reject the small (only 20% according to the recent national poll) percentage of people who are calling for grizzly bear trophy hunts.

The grizzly bear remains absent from nearly 98 percent of its historic range after near-extermination, and Montana must help speed the recovery of these majestic animals. I urge the Council to recommend protecting grizzly bears, not killing them.

Cc: Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council Facilitators Shawn Johnson & Heather Stokes, and Montana FWP Information and Education Manager, Dillon Tabish

Signed by the following 11,141 WildEarth Guardians Members and Supporters,

First Name	Last Name	City	State	Zip Code
Cliff	Wallis	Calgary	AB	0

G M A AB T1T 1T1
Dominique Holy Calgary AB T2Y3Y8
T m af AB T1T 1T1
Nathalie Martel Calgary AB T2Z 4X4
Lynn Wilbur Juneau AK 99801-9092
Heike Brown Fairbanks AK 99703
Deborah Voves Anchorage AK 99516-3150
Susan Vogt Fairbanks AK 99712-2502
Morgan MacConaugha-Snyder Anchorage AK 99507
Dogan Ozkan fairbanks AK 99701
Michelle Breinholt Willow AK 99688-0796
Mandy Stahl-Redder Soldotna AK 99669
Jessica Grantier Anchorage AK 99507
James Andriani Anchorage AK 99501
Jill Bohr Jacob Ward Cove AK 99928
Jim Farrell Fairbanks AK 99701
Maija Dreimane Anchorage AK 99502
John S. Sonin Douglas AK 99824-5059
Michelle Harrington Anchorage AK 99518
Deirdre Downey Fairbanks AK 99701
Ila Singh Hey AK 42312-0077
marilyn dougher Anchorage AK 99502
A Winser Anchorage AK 99518
Gary Moore Eagle River AK 99577
John Lisowski Haines AK 99827
Kerstin Murr Immenreuth AK 95505
Miro Krajnc Podvelka AK 23632
Joan Ollom Fairbanks AK 99712-1025
Karen Procter Anchorage AK 99517-1249
patty song willow AK 99688
Alix Bowman Anchorage AK 99508-4813
sandra arapoudis rhodos AL 85133
Marian Porter Daphne AL 36526
Jonathan Mitchell Madison AL 35757
Trina Herrington Phenix City AL 36870-2845
Harold Robinson Talladega AL 35160-3359
Karen Spradlin Jacksonville AL 36265
Denise Griffin Mobile AL 36695
Tom Ress Athens AL 35613
Deb Kilgore MULGA AL 35118
Joe Mccain Vestavia AL 35243
Lee Craddock anniston AL 36207
Uta Cortimilia Fort Payne AL 35967
Lauren Richie Pl Grv AL 351271538
Malina Hong Fort Mitchell AL 36856-5565
Pat and Gary Gover Fairhope AL 36532
Peggy England Ashville AL 35953
Mary Hankey Cullman AL 35058
Pete Sandifer Montgomery AL 36109-1824
Jennifer Love Ashford AL 36312
Lorna Wood Auburn AL 36830
jodi daniels maylene AL 35114

Carol Leonis Birmingham AL 35242-4490
Diane DiFante Wetumpka AL 36092
Denille Fleming Mobile AL 36603-1010
Kim Williams Opelika AL 36804
kisti odell Mobile AL 36608
chayna stewart Warrior AL 35180
Stephanie Claypoole Tuscumbia AL 35674
William Hutchings Birmingham AL 35213
Chester Richey Martin auburn AL 36830
Karen Furniss Huntsville AL 35801
Jean Langford Huntsville AL 35803
Judy Cacioppo BESSEMER AL 35022-4615
Kenneth Hyche Cullman AL 35057-4028
Rod Garner Birmingham AL 35235-1820
Mike Lesley Birmingham AL 35206
Shelia Walker Hanceville AL 35077
Barbara Wojciak Harpersville AL 35078
Jennifer Roberts Decatur AL 35601
John Markushewski Huntsville AL 35801
Rocquelle Woods Huntsville AL 35824
Mark Volans Huntsville AL 35811
Judy Love Ashford AL 36312
William Thornton Magnolia Springs AL 36555
james Lovell Daphne AL 36526
James Tucker Tuscaloosa AL 35405
Jerry Lee Tuscaloosa AL 35404
James Arrington Birmingham AL 35242-3522
Gloria Cash-Procell Huntsville AL 35803
Chan Darby Florence AL 35630
Sarah McGee Killen AL 35645-6120
Greg Ragsdale Birmingham AL 35209-3170
Laney Roberts Auburn AL 36830-5020
Joyce Scarborough Daphne AL 36526-6600
Leslie Smoot Owens Cross Roads AL 35763
Nancy Coulombe Pisgah AL 35765-6057
James Adams Irondale AL 35210
Christine Day Selma AL 36701-2126
Robin Overby Montgomery AL 36107
Ian Borrows Tuscaloosa AL 35404-3645
Lucile Cooper Woodville AL 35776-6526
Magdalena Craig Cullman AL 35055-2019
Katherine Godwin Mobile AL 36608
Patricia Snyder Huntsville AL 35806-3433
Linda Singer Huntsville AL 35801-4235
Donna La France Wetumpka AL 36092-2612
Miranda O'Shields Fort Payne AL 35967
Cathy Canady Decatur AL 35603
Cara Schmidt Yellville AR 72687
t mullarkey hot springs village AR 71909
Lynell Withers Russellville AR 72802
Orville McKinney Holiday Island AR 72631
Carol Joan Patterson Eureka Springs AR 72632
Shirley Elliott Van Buren AR 72956-7801

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Janet Torgerson Eureka Springs AR 72631
Sue Ellen Lupien MAUMELLE AR 721135943
Keith Runion Little Rock AR 72205
Judy Bash Little Rock AR 72211-2206
Voletta Chavis Hot Springs Village AR 71909
Allen Myers Little Rock AR 72223
Veronica Clarke Little Rock AR 72207
Shearle Furnish Little Rock AR 72223
Katie Morgan Tumbling Shoals AR 72581-9229
Janice Lisk North Little Rock AR 72116
Shirley Lawson Sheridan AR 72150
Christine Carlson Centerton AR 72719
Douglas Spurlin Fayetteville AR 72703-3714
Jeannette Barnes Mabelvale AR 72103
Ashley Lawrence Little Rock AR 72221
Mike Kenney Hensley AR 72065
Cynthia Patton Fayetteville AR 72703-6149
Arthur Hoyt Mountain Home AR 726541139
Valerie Paterson Pocahontas AR 72455
Linda Padgett Rogers AR 72758
Gerry Archibald Bella Vista AR 72714-6238
Timothy Dean Fayetteville AR 72704-7100
J.L. Evans Compton AR 72624-9616
Cindy Strticklin Sherwood AR 72120-3483
Laurel Owen Eureka Springs AR 72632-3401
Larry Hedrick Hot Springs AR 71913-7221
Veronika Pietkiewicz Mountain View AR 72560-9110
Beverly Waters Scott AR 72142-9341
Renee Sutherland Hot Springs AR 71901
Bruce Christensen Paragould AR 72450-8351
Antonio Lucchetto roma AS 143
Susan Brandes Tucson AZ 85716-6001
George Karas Phoenix AZ 85050-3788
William Kurtz Amado AZ 85645-9645
Dana Whitney Tucson AZ 85712
G. V. Christensen Springerville AZ 85938
Phillip Mitchell Oro Valley AZ 85737
Mary Beth Williams Tucson AZ 85711-6459
Lezlie Ely Clarkdale AZ 86324-0761
Lois Jordan Tucson AZ 85749
Philip Shook Tempe AZ 85281
Saliane Anderssen Tucson AZ 85756-5179
Karen Kravcov Malcolm Scottsdale AZ 85262
Terry Tedesco Phoenix AZ 85016
Carolyn Anderson Tucson AZ 85718
Jeanne Morrison Prescott AZ 86301
Mickey Brewer Phoenix AZ 85001
Alan Binnie Tucson AZ 85739
Linda Mooney Flagstaff AZ 86004
Deborah Papaleo Phoenix AZ 85044
Arlene Dreste Ajo AZ 85321
Toni Thomas Tucson AZ 85748

Marilyn Waltasti Maricopa AZ 85138
Marcella Crane Phoenix AZ 85053
Mariko Wheeler Flagstaff AZ 86001
Duncan Brown Tucson AZ 85710
Cami Leonard Phoenix AZ 85016
Jean Goetinck Tucson AZ 85746
Mike Lanka Maricopa AZ 85138
Diane Kent Scottsdale AZ 85255-3792
Ioana Datcu Sunsites AZ 85625
Cathy Williams Tucson AZ 85719
Claudia Garoutte Dewey AZ 86327-5232
Bettina Bickel Glendale AZ 85302
Shawn Rorke-Davis Phoenix AZ 85012
Thomas Slaback Prescott AZ 86303
Carrie Darling Phoenix AZ 85022
Ron Goldberg Tucson AZ 85731-8893
Matthew Hartlieb Mesa AZ 85208
Cynthia Murphy Yuma AZ 85365
Dana Pierson Mesa AZ 85201
Debbie Friesen Tucson AZ 85743
Marla Erhart Prescott Valley AZ 86314
Hashi Hanta Sells AZ 85634
Abigail Villodas Cave Creek AZ 85331-6000
Michael Shores Tempe AZ 85281-8728
Deanna Green Queen Creek AZ 85142-5602
Katherine Trimm Tucson AZ 85712-4456
Cynthia Vartenuk Scottsdale AZ 85251
Jennifer Kately Mesa AZ 85202
Joan Prefontaine Cottonwood AZ 86326-7042
Lynda Barondes Bisbee AZ 85603
Tracy Cole Glendale AZ 85302
Janae Bailie KINGMAN AZ 86409
Mark Hayduke Grenard Phoenix,Yuck,Sprawl AZ 85022-5880
m p tucson AZ 85712
John Wertin Payson AZ 85541
Cheryl McAllister Gilbert AZ 85233
Kathy Hunter Mesa AZ 85214
John Soine Surprise AZ 85374
Steven Boyce Prescott AZ 86305-4560
Christa Romppanen yarnell AZ 85362
James Falsken Queen Creek AZ 85142
Robert Herzog Sun Lakes AZ 85248
Luis Lerma tucson AZ 85745
Susan Mulcahy Scottsdale AZ 85251-6204
Janene Wong-Brehmer Phoenix AZ 85018-5815
Lynette Belew Chandler AZ 85224
Phyllis Turner Winslow AZ 86047-2821
Vicki San Souci Flagstaff AZ 86004
Clare Block Gold Canyon AZ 85118
Dacia Murphy Mesa AZ 85213
Anita McNamara Marana AZ 85658
Gayle Civale Tucson AZ 85746

David Nelson Tucson AZ 85715
Linley Fray Phoenix AZ 85028
Chere Gruver Mesa AZ 85207
Suzanne J. Arnold GOLDEN VALLEY AZ 86413
Catherine Major Tucson AZ 85730
Bill Christie Tucson AZ 85719
Barbara Siewert Phoenix AZ 85035
Cheryl Vana Casa Grande AZ 85194
Gerry Milliken Cottonwood AZ 86326-5991
MICHAEL SCHUMM ORO VALLEY AZ 85737-0008
Robin Soletzky Phoenix AZ 85053
Melissa Harlan Tempe AZ 85284
Gilbert Flores phoenix AZ 85029
Melinda Weisser-Lee Thatcher AZ 85552
sabine greger sedona AZ 86336
Elk MARISH Phoenix AZ 85013
Rebecca Haynes Dewey AZ 86327-5907
Richard Arthur Phoenix AZ 85085
Betsy Maestro Cornville AZ 86325
Sharon Maxson Green Valley AZ 85614-6376
Yvonne Marley Peoria AZ 85381
Candace Hawk Casa grande AZ 85122
Cheri Blackburn Tucson AZ 85730-4530
Deanna Smith Scottsdale AZ 85251
Jan Peddy Tucson AZ 85710-5234
Jonathan Peter Sun Lakes AZ 85248-9235
Judith Castiano Peoria AZ 85345-8838
Melissa Rogers Tucson AZ 85716-2153
Norma Kafer Phoenix AZ 85007
Pamela Parker Mesa AZ 85204-2735
Patricia Kaiserman Phoenix AZ 85044
Patricia Always Sun City AZ 85351
Tina Choate Sedona AZ 86336
Robin Terry Tucson AZ 85736
DeeAnn Saber Tucson AZ 85719
Michael Lee Peoria AZ 85383-6662
Carrie Long Tucson AZ 85710-1310
Diane Nowak Cottonwood AZ 86326
George Casner Phoenix AZ 85022-1508
Susan Thing Tucson AZ 85745
Margaret Cathey Gilbert AZ 85297
Michael Handforth Parks AZ 86018
Frederica Adkinson Tucson AZ 85749
Gregory Freeman Pearce AZ 85625
Bonnie Oliver Tucson AZ 85705-5927
Nancy Schuhrke Chandler AZ 85224
Deanna Horton Tucson AZ 85750
Jo K Sierra Vista AZ 85635
Vivian Cawthon Sun City AZ 85351-3288
Margaret Ratliff Glendale AZ 85304
Wendy Adams Chandler AZ 85224
Adriana Micciulla Scottsdale AZ 85255

Katherine	Hutchins	Phoenix	AZ	85050
Moira	Miller	Prescott	AZ	86301-3202
Tania	Malven	Tucson	AZ	85719
Monique	Edwards	Oro Valley	AZ	85755-1610
Heidi	Shorey	Tucson	AZ	85705-2887
Leslie	Fish	Buckeye	AZ	85326-6303
martha	johnson	Chandler	AZ	85248
Randall	Bash	Scottsdale	AZ	85260
Eman	jason	phoenix	AZ	85344
Arline	Fass	Green Valley	AZ	85614
Anita	Robeson	Sun City West	AZ	85375
PHILIP	RITTER	Surprise	AZ	85388
M	Timmins	Tucson	AZ	85747-9223
Letitia	Siemion	Sedona	AZ	86336
An	Chadwick	Tucson	AZ	85719
Lois	Nottingham	Prescott	AZ	86301
Paula	Bonnell	Scottsdale	AZ	85255
Daniel	Figueroa	Mesa	AZ	85210-5386
Adarsh	Ayyar	Paradise Valley	AZ	85253-5328
Ronda	Emmrich	Phoenix	AZ	85033-2739
Sue	Johnston	Phoenix	AZ	85014
Donald	Langlois	Chandler	AZ	85225
MICHEL	BELLIARD	Sedona	AZ	86336
Donald	Monheit	Tucson	AZ	85710
Nancy	Godwin	tucson	AZ	85748
Teresa	Lyman	Buckeye	AZ	85396
Mary Kennedy	Ice	Oro Valley	AZ	85737
Kay	Whitaker	Bisbee	AZ	85603-4778
Sherri	Hodges	Phoenix	AZ	85051-8117
Robin	Slate	Cave Creek	AZ	85331-5448
Jacomina	Newman-Osmon	Scottsdale	AZ	85255
Evelyn	Verrill	Prescott	AZ	86305
Candace	Russell	Phoenix	AZ	85035
Susan	Eastman	Goodyear	AZ	85395
Debi	Zickefoose	Lake Havasu City	AZ	86406-6866
Mona	Chatterji	Tucson	AZ	85741
Dolores	Varga	San Tan Valley	AZ	85143-4138
Stephania	Williams	Paradise Valley	AZ	85253
Peggy	Ford	Tucson	AZ	85714
L	Hernandez	Phoenix	AZ	85016
James	Michael Hall	Tucson	AZ	85737
Susan	Rollins	Mesa	AZ	85206-1805
June	Jarosz	Glendale	AZ	85301-1583
Nan	Wollman	Tucson	AZ	85719-1376
Peter	Ianchiou	Tucson	AZ	85716-3809
Suzanne	Cook	MESA	AZ	85209-6232
Darlene	Dyer	Sun City	AZ	85351
Robert	Mac Nish	Tucson	AZ	85718-4735
Janet	Witzeman	Phoenix	AZ	85018-2804
Carroll	Munz	Paradise Valley	AZ	85253-2013
Mike	Costa	Prescott	AZ	86303
Patrick	Diehl	Tucson	AZ	85719

Renee vance Tucson AZ 85743
Jewell Batway Apache Junction AZ 85120
Lori Girshick Mesa AZ 85215
Elizabeth Brannon Mesa AZ 85204
Lyn Blackston Goodyear AZ 85338-5500
michael waters sedona AZ 86336
Carol Goerke Tempe AZ 85281
Nancy McLean Glendale AZ 85310
Vicki Gannon tucson AZ 85742
Andrea Alagammai Tucson AZ 85715
Amy Wolfe Phoenix AZ 85032
Robert Ayers Vail AZ 85641
Dan Heffernan Glendale AZ 85304
Christie Vaughn Tucson AZ 85716
Roseann Santangelo Chino Valley AZ 86323
Daniel Herrera Gadsden AZ 85336
KATHLEEN SHEA Glendale AZ 85308
Karen Wonders Phoenix AZ 85048
Martha Turobiner Scottsdale AZ 85259
Margaret Fularczyk Surprise AZ 85374
Donna Fine Tucson AZ 85741
Catherine France Prescott AZ 86305-7110
Sandra Stock Tucson AZ 85710
Dara Rider San Tan Valley AZ 85142
Virginia Sanchez Gilbert AZ 85297
Lesa Diorio Buckeye AZ 85326
Dan Horton Tucson AZ 85750
Rob Hamilton Chandler AZ 85226
Jacqueline Kimzey Mesa AZ 85213-5338
April Fennell Scottsdale AZ 85250
Mitchell Hamilton Chandler AZ 85233
Debby Winemiller Scottsdale AZ 85267
Danielle Hill Tucson AZ 85742
Alice Deutsch Phoenix AZ 85053
Tom Dow Glendale AZ 85308
James Moran Glendale AZ 85305
Kathy Colletti Glendale AZ 85308
Sue Rodriguez Scottsdale AZ 85260-5514
Cathie Ernst Scottsdale AZ 85262
Steven Sardo Scottsdale AZ 85255
Mickie Flanigan Scottsdale AZ 85054
Bob Neuzil Gilbert AZ 85233
Anastasia Ogle Scottsdale AZ 85258
Christina Teunissen Cave Creek AZ 85331
D Wolf Bisbee AZ 85603
Mary Schwartz green valley AZ 85622
Richard Skinner TUCSON AZ 85705
Keisha Richardson Oracle AZ 85623
Cynthia Loucks Prescott AZ 86303
tom clavin Flagstaff AZ 86004-6228
Marilee Murray Anthem AZ 85086
Roxann Carmean Payson AZ 85541
LYNDA NESBITT Stanfield AZ AZ 85172

LYNDA NESBITT Stanfield, AZ AZ 85172
Glen Wetzel Surprise AZ 85374
Tiffany Flores Tolleson AZ 85353
Melissa Orourke Chandler AZ 85286-0236
Carol Yerden Scottsdale AZ 85262
Marisol Ackerman Florence AZ 85132-9658
E Scantlebury Benson AZ 85602
Nonya Cox Cottonwood AZ 86326
Kathy Grieves Peoria AZ 85383
Teresa Wall Mesa AZ 85204
Rick Easton Cornville AZ 86325-5719
Concepcion Elvira Tucson AZ 85701
Sherry Bailey Wickenburg AZ 85390
Claudia Folch Tucson AZ 85743
Doris Certosimo Glendale AZ 85302
Connie Clark Tucson AZ 85741
Joan Jacobs scottsdale AZ 85254
Andrew Hamilton Chandler AZ 85226
Martha Green Goodyear AZ 85338
Sandra Armendariz Tucson AZ 85743
Katie Secker Phoenix AZ 85016-4680
Brandi Adams Gilbert AZ 85234-7615
Patti Adkins Buckeye AZ 85396
Penni Anifer Glendale AZ 85306-3929
Linda Armbruster Tucson AZ 85710-2940
Susan Ash Flagstaff AZ 86004-5812
Pat Edgin Show low AZ 85901
Jackie Bomgardner Goodyear AZ 85338-1520
S. Bower Tempe AZ 85282-4732
Jackie Bush Mesa AZ 85207-7720
Lynn Casey Sun Lakes AZ 85248-7107
Debra Christensen Prescott AZ 86303-3211
Margaret Christensen Gilbert AZ 85233-3955
Carolyn Cruz Sierra Vista AZ 85635-8270
Jennifer Currie Surprise AZ 85379-8147
Lynn Murphy Tucson AZ 85715-6809
Lisa Nathan Phoenix AZ 85007-1714
Arlene Norton Phoenix AZ 85085-5308
Mary Louise Oâ??Keefe Scottsdale AZ 85259
Sheila ORielly Litchfield Park AZ 85340-6605
Jay Denniston Phoenix AZ 85020-4126
Brianne Evans Chandler AZ 85226-1767
Colleen Freymuth Chandler Heights AZ 85127-9033
Duane Gibson Tucson AZ 85716-2306
Aggie Shapiro Phoenix AZ 85020-4701
Diane Steele-Smith Phoenix AZ 85020-3833
Jennifer Grant peoria AZ 85382
Jan Hammond Sonoita AZ 85637-6411
Carol Kemmerer Phoenix AZ 85051
Cindy Kellie Tucson AZ 85730-2734
Hans Klaudt Tucson AZ 85718-3311
Andy MacMillan Chandler AZ 85224-2659
Monica Montalvo Chandler AZ 85225-3012

Donna	Morgan	Scottsdale	AZ	85266-1533
Christina	Owens	Ft.Thomas	AZ	85536
Susan	P.	Phoenix	AZ	85032-5271
Judy	Pollard	Phoenix	AZ	85028-2716
Michele	Reese	Tucson	AZ	85742
Gina	Read	Phoenix	AZ	85016-7929
Martin	Rickman	Black Canyon City	AZ	85324-0452
Jean	Rodine	Phoenix	AZ	85069
Kelly	Russo	Gilbert	AZ	85296-0502
Ariel	San Miguel	Amado	AZ	85645-9509
Michael	Sawyer	San Tan Valley	AZ	85140
Wendy	Smith	Gilbert	AZ	85298-8730
Beveryn	Swaim	Phoenix	AZ	85040-3145
Debra	Tiritilli	Apache Jct	AZ	85120-7442
Francesca	Twyman	Tucson	AZ	85743-8122
Kathleen	Van Osten	Chandler	AZ	85225-4121
Margaret	Weant-Leavitt	Cornville	AZ	86325-5830
Christine	Weathersbee	Gilbert	AZ	85297
Elizabeth	Welch	Oro Valley	AZ	85737-6976
Marelyn	Westfall	Mesa	AZ	85213-6225
Saeko	Yamauchi	Mesa	AZ	85207-7415
Donna	Hart	Peoria	AZ	85345-8696
Andrew	Umphries	Tucson	AZ	85749
Linda	Thomas	Scottsdale	AZ	85258-6078
Patricia	Vance	Tucson	AZ	85701-1604
Lyn	Huston	Surprise	AZ	85379-8741
Janine	Connors	Benson	AZ	85602
Joseph	Farnsworth	Flagstaff	AZ	86004-7387
Loretta	Kinney	Prescott	AZ	86301-5929
Dana	Woods	Phoenix	AZ	85022-1674
Jenny	Fortsch	Prescott	AZ	86301-5596
Debbie	Burgett	Kingman	AZ	86401-6521
Jeff	Kinsey	Flagstaff	AZ	86001
Rona	Homer	Scottsdale	AZ	85255-5900
Tony	Zop	Phoenix	AZ	85042-8218
Jennyfer	Stratman	Phoenix	AZ	85042-5914
Helen	Pierce	Phoenix	AZ	85028-3818
Erica	Brannon	Sierra Vista	AZ	85650-5118
Joellen	Trombley	Camp Verde	AZ	86322-8105
Lorayne	Robertson	Mesa	AZ	85204-1942
Bobbi	Corbett	Tucson	AZ	85704-5230
Lisa	Whitaker	Tucson	AZ	85741-1400
Rick	Glider	Tucson	AZ	85741-1352
Deborah	Jones	Queen Creek	AZ	85142-8917
Karen	Anderson	Glendale	AZ	85301-4126
Belinda	Bolden	Apache Junction	AZ	85119-3281
George	Turner	Gold Canyon	AZ	85118
Kathy	Wilson	Prescott Valley	AZ	86314-3808
Sue	Zelik	Chandler	AZ	85249-8992
Judson	Wynne	Flagstaff	AZ	86005-9549
Diane	Berlin	Chandler	AZ	85249-9165
Harry	Sherry	Scottsdale	AZ	85255-5237

Pat Felcan Phoenix AZ 85024-1734
Wendy Jack Sedona AZ 86336
Elizabeth Ross Cave Creek AZ 85331-5126
Shelley Deshotel Glendale AZ 85301-2114
Mary Lyons Globe AZ 85501-2086
Autumn Garcia GOODYEAR AZ 85338
Robert Lukey Mesa AZ 85203-7944
Dianne Douglas Phoenix AZ 85042
Fran Clarida Phoenix AZ 85044-3335
Theresa Martin Phoenix AZ 85019-1702
Terri Chambers San Tan Valley AZ 85140-8941
L. Hertz Scottsdale AZ 85250-5644
Regina Watkins Tucson AZ 85745-3524
Mary Benton Tucson AZ 85710-8576
Linda Goetz Tucson AZ 85739-2436
Brooke Rogers Waddell AZ 85355-9752
Patrick Fachet Chandler AZ 85248
JILL SMITH Mesa AZ 85209
Mark Belanger Nanaimo BC 0
Linda Fair Surrey BC V3M 0N3
Katha Kerr Surrey BC V3S 4W2
Sue Waterman North Vancouver BC V7N 1L1
Lesley Edwards Cranbrook BC V1C 5E2
Cherie LeBlanc Richmond BC V6Y 1A4
Marcel Schiller Nanaimo BC V9S3C4
Karen Fahey Heffley creek BC VOE1Z0
Shelly Green Delta BC V4L2K9
Liana Christian South Surrey BC V4A 6L2
Elaine Woodriff Petaluma CA 94954
Chad Johnson Sylmar CA 91342-5162
Sandy Zelasko Valley Center CA 92082
Nancy Martin La Honda CA 94020
Therese Ryan Palmdale CA 93550
Colleen Cabot San Jose CA 95132
Mary Foley el dorado hills CA 95762
Debi Bergsma FONTANA CA 92336-4106
Saran Kirschbaum Los Angeles CA 90035
Dan Esposito Manhattan Beach CA 90266-4082
Susan Watts Riverside CA 92506
Sigrid Ramos Van Nuys CA 91405
Tia Triplett Los Angeles CA 90066
Gene Trapp Davis CA 95616
Lisa Salazar Shasta Lake CA 96089
Carol Leuenberger Elk Grove CA 95624-3842
Lori Kegler San Pedro CA 90731
Susan Wayne xxx CA 92354
Ranko Balog Irvine CA 92603-3828
Barbara Boros Santa Barbara CA 93105-6409
Kenneth Lapointe Los Angeles CA 90031-0032
Joe Salazar Santa Rosa CA 95407
Anne Veraldi San Francisco CA 94110-1688
Maureen Pisani Richmond CA 94803

Carlene Visperas Concord CA 94521
Kristin Womack San Anselmo CA 94960
Joyce Johnson Santa Rosa CA 95404
Sheila Desmond Cameron Park CA 95682
Gail Roberts Tecate CA 91980
Zoe Harris San Anselmo CA 94979
Martha Herrero Costa Mesa CA 92627
Alice Neuhauser Manhattan Beach CA 90266
Camile Getter Sacramento CA 95819
Grace Feldmann Santa Barbara CA CA 93105
Barbara Hillmer Placerville CA 95667-9104
Carolyn Crow Burlingame CA 94010
Gloria Grotjan Aptos CA 95003-5028
Sue Davies Philo CA 95466-0630
Jennifer Hayes Modesto CA 95350-1716
Doug Lenier Valley Glen CA 91401
Ellen Peterson Berkeley CA 94705-2838
Nancy Eichler Albany CA 94706-2013
Mariam Shah-Rais Redondo Beach CA 90277
Camille Gilbert Santa Barbara CA 93101
Tim Barrington San Jose CA 95112
Bob Miller Santa Rosa CA 95404
frederique joly Venice CA 90291-3833
alison merkel oak park CA 91377
Rev. Elizabeth Zenker Eureka CA 95501
Maryellen Redish Palm Springs CA 92264-0649
Leanne Friedman Davis CA 95616
Ron Landskroner Oakland CA 94611
Sheri Kuticka Concord CA 94518
Laura Sneddon Los Gatos CA 95032-1852
Scott Watanabe Los Angeles CA 90066-2838
Alan Solomon Palm Desert CA 92261
Deborah Brooks San Francisco CA 94110-5905
Ria Tanz Kubota El Sobrante CA 94803
Maureen Vanderbosch Laguna Niguel CA 92677
Nicholas Lenchner Santa Rosa CA 95403
Danny Castori Clayton CA 94517-0830
Michelle Storace Danville CA 94506
Myra Berario Casaic CA 91384
Samuel Durkin Fairfield CA 94534
Carol Bostick Novato CA 94949-5046
Joe Buhowsky San Ramon CA 94582-4865
Lauren Bryant La Crescenta CA 91214
Tim Maurer Anaheim CA 92808-1619
Deborah Lancman la mesa CA 91941
Jinx Hydeman Trabuco Canyon CA 92679-1108
Leslie McLean Tustin CA 92780
Robert Reed Buena Park CA 90620-3205
jane biggins esq ukiah CA 95482
JOHN B MORGEN BEAUMONT CA 92223
Pat Sides Healdsburg CA 95448
Karen Jacques Sacramento CA 95811
Sudi McCallum Glendale CA 91206

Sudi McCollum Glendale CA 91206
Norma Campbell Campbell CA 95008
Mary Able Mcarthur CA 96056-7633
Lonna Richmond Muir Beach CA 94965
Sharon Moreno Sacramento CA 95820
Melissa Polick Mill Valley CA 94941
Mark Glasser LA CA 90066
Anna Factor PS CA 92264-8430
Sarah Townsend Santa Clara CA 95050
Charlotte Sines Wawona CA 95389
Mary Quimby Arcadia CA 91006
John Varga Huntington Beach CA 92648
Lin Penrose Morro Bay CA 93442
Aixa Fielder LA CA 90028
Joe E Ojeda jr Roseville CA 95747
Monique Sonoquie Chico CA 95928
Susan Goldberg Glendale CA 91202
Michelle Layer San Francisco CA 94102
Colleen Rodger El Sobrante CA 94803-3548
Susan Berlin San Rafael CA 94903
Lynette Ridder Concord CA 94521
Georgia Brewer Sherman Oaks CA 91401-5228
Sheila Sheppard Carmel CA 93921
Ralph Bocchetti Fontana CA 92337
CARLA DAVIS CORTE MADERA CA 94925
Linda Tabb North Hills CA 91343-3720
Jorge De Cecco Ukiah CA 95482-3407
Gary Sibley Simi Valley CA 93063
Elaine Benjamin Alpine CA 91901
Birgit Hermann San Francisco CA 94117
Charles Tribbey San Luis Obispo CA 93405
Gerald Shaia Sun Valley CA 91352
Larry Branson Pomona CA 91767
Lynne Pateman Los Angeles CA 90068
Peter Lee San Francisco CA 94118
Laura Overmann Burlingame CA 94010-5141
Karen Berger Montrose CA 91020
Canan Tzelil Beverly Hills CA 90210
Holly Dowling Novato CA 94947
Deniz Bolbol San Mateo CA 94402
Marianne Hunter rancho palos verdes CA 90275
Elaine Taylor Glendale CA 91205
Julie Brickell Fullerton CA 92832-1204
Anne Lebas San Rafel CA 94903
Maria Bon Simi Valley CA 93063
Mariana Salerno San Diego CA 92101-2576
Joseph Rhoades Vacaville CA 95688-4409
Danuska Pierce Imperial Beach CA 91932
Donna Duran Northridge CA 91325
Lanelle Lovelace Columbia CA 95310
Carol Taggart Menlo Park CA 94025-5560
Alicia Jackson Vallejo CA 94591
Cody Dolnick Joshua Tree CA 92252

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Caryl Pearson Morro Bay CA 93442
Karla Devine MANHATTAN BEACH CA 90266
Myrna Britton santa cruz CA 95064
Judith Smith Oakland CA 94601
Kathleen Love Clearlake CA 95422
Eileen Greenberg North Hollywood CA 91606
Candace Rocha Los Angeles CA 90032-1308
Cindy Lauren Los Angeles CA 90025-3014
Georgia Carver Rancho cordova CA 95670
George Schneider San Diego CA 92105
Robin VanTassell Summerland CA 93067-0641
Jennifer Sellers Concord CA 94521
Jude Lotz Burbank CA 91505
Carol Gordon Los Angeles CA 90027
Tami Phelps Redding CA 96003
Dan Perdios Palm Springs CA 92262-0701
Kim Forrest Los Banos CA 93635
Maria Bustamante Oakley CA 94561
joanne katzen Aptos CA 95003
Jose Figueroa Jr Fremont CA 94536
Elizabeth Jache Lemon grove CA 919453716
I M Lopez San Diego CA 92110
Martha Carrington Santa Cruz CA 95062
diane olson santa monica CA 90403
Yves Decargouet Lucerne CA 95458
Anne Dugaw Costa Mesa CA 92627
Carol Reiche Santa Barbara CA 93108
Kevin Branstetter Applegate CA 95703
Maria Nowicki San Francisco CA 94116
Michael Sarabia Stockton CA 95207
Julie du Bois West Hills CA 91304-3049
Mal Gaff Lompoc CA 93436
Irene Snavely Covina CA 91724
James Brown Los Angeles CA 90034-6251
Nancy Heck Santa Maria CA 93454
Sierra Pecheur Los Angeles CA 90034
Yvette Irwin Martinez CA 94553
Jeff Hansen Mammoth Lakes CA 93546
Devon Kerbow Norco CA 92860
Stephanie Rossi Trabuco Canyon CA 92679-3500
Paula Hawkins San Diego CA 92104
Joanne Tenney Escondido CA 92026
Denise Parsons Daly City CA 94015
Celeste Anacker Santa Barbara CA 93105
Susan Gill San Anselmo CA 94960
Bridgett Heinly San Diego CA 92107
Mark Betti Sherman Oaks CA 91423
Frederick Hamilton Rancho Cucamonga CA 91739-1925
Sunnie Noellert McKinleyville CA 95519
Raymond Marshall Foresthill CA 95631
Kevin Wightman Los Angeles CA 90029
L Nelson Morgan Hill CA 95038

Julie Stinchcomb Roseville CA 95678
pete childs Rancho Mirage CA 92270
Michael Abler Santa Cruz CA 95062
Albert Valencia Huntington Beach CA 92647
Lisa Dossey San Francisco CA 94122
barbara poland La Crescenta CA 91214-2007
Maris Bennett Antioch CA 94509
Penelope Cooper-Kelley Santa Barbara CA 93105
Jana Perinchief Sacramento CA 95821-3402
Phoenix Giffen Fairfax CA 94930
Barbara Tacker Camarillo CA 93012-7715
Andrea Bonnett Altadena CA 91001
o Lewis Los Angeles CA 90009
Laurel McCrink Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067
Kathleen Sumida SAN DIEGO CA 92120
Kathryn Carroll Oakland CA 94611
Brad Nelson Oxnard CA 93035
Gilia Humrich Forestville CA 95436
Nichelle Winchester Lakeport CA 95453
Judith Anshin Sacramento CA 95822-1225
Janet Heinle Santa Monica CA 90403
G Caviglia Morgan Hill CA 95038
denise hayes Ventura CA 93001
Beatriz Pallanes Santa Ana CA 92704
Tia Ja San Jose CA 95124-2801
Alma Marie Alcala Manteca CA 95336
Alena Jorgensen Temple City CA 91780-1651
Jeanne Davenport Long Beach CA 90808-2820
Gilda Fusilier Sacramento CA 95831
Neal Steiner Los Angeles CA 90034
Lisabette Brinkman Santa Barbara CA 93101
Teresa Zollars Fresno CA 93704
Jamie Green Ventura CA 93004
Ashley Lewis San Anselmo CA 94960
carol majors northridge CA 91326
Jon Anderholm Cazadero CA 95421
Margaret Weimer San Mateo CA 94403-3339
Joseph Shulman San Diego CA 92115
Eddie Gutierrez Los Banos CA 93635
Bob Leppo Shell Beach CA 93449
Steve Graff Los Angeles CA 90025
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Nina Wouk Redwood City CA 94063-2755
Lacey Hicks Union City CA 94587
Vicki & Rod Kastlie San Diego CA 92107
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Ilya Turov Moreno Valley CA 92555
James Haig San Rafael CA 94901-1665
Oscar Gutierrez San Diego CA 92192-2088
John Oda San Francisco CA 94115
Shannon Patty Jurupa Valley CA 92509-6334

Bret Polish Los Angeles CA 91335
Ann Myers Berkeley CA 94705
Mha Atma Khalsa Los Angeles CA 90035
Gabriela Sosa San Diego CA 92101-2536
Maria Barakos Arleta CA 91331-5702
Susan Porter Pasadena CA 91103
Theresa Acerro Chula Vista CA 91911
e p talmage CA 95481
Donna Grampp Fullerton CA 92831
julie kramer San Francisco CA 94114
Eileen Massey Oakland CA 94608
Renee Jeska Seal Beach CA 90740-2958
CODY WALTERS BAKERSFIELD CA 93312
Elisabeth Armendarez Irvine CA 92602-1211
Julie Smith Los Osos CA 93402
Tracey Archer Lincoln CA 95648
Betty Winholtz Morro Bay CA 93442
Stacey McRae Winchester CA 92596
Jason Fish Fair Oaks CA 95628
Jim Meyers Modesto CA 95355
Stefanie Yellis Oakland CA 94618-2803
Pamela Hamilton sacramento CA 95605
Karen and Ed Osgood Citrus Heights CA 95611
Graciela Huth LOS ANGELES CA 90045
Pat Padilla Porterville CA 93257-1747
Michelle Dziamba Sacramento CA 95831
Holly Hall Temecula CA 92592
Michelle Oroz Auburn CA 95603
Lily Mejia Hemet CA 92543
Cynthia OByrne Lompoc CA 93436
Karen Erickson San Jose CA 95125
Diane Berliner Los Angeles CA 90046
Evan Jane Kriss Sausalito CA 94965
Sharon Paltin Laytonville CA 95454
Marlayna Hadley Inyokern CA 93527
Robert Ricewasser Monrovia CA 91016
Maria Steffen Willits CA 95490
Edh Stanley Sacramento CA 95823-1457
Perri Kimono LOS ANGELES CA 90046
Dolores Massey Lakeside CA 92040
Steve Hanlon Los Angeles CA 90049
Nancy Petersen Claremont CA 91711
Katherine Johnson Santa Barbara CA 93110
Daniel Carrillo San Bruno CA 94066
C. Yee Sacramento CA 95822
Lauren Smith Garden Grove CA 92841-2023
Beverly Poncia Lower Lake CA 95457
Juanita Gama Palm Desert CA 92260
Seb Villani Chula Vista CA 91912
Katherine Nolan Cupertino CA 95014
Natalie Aharonian North Hollywood CA 91606
Janet Parkins Oakland CA 94611

Dale Wright Ramona CA 92065-6313
Jana Harker Arcadia CA 91066
c s San Diego CA 92107
Erica Munn Los Angeles CA 90028
Joan Walker Bishop CA 93514
Chuck Wieland San Ramon CA 94583
Malc Moore Portola CA 96122
Valerie Nordeman Laytonville CA 95454
Linda Shadle Anaheim CA 92804-5268
Chris Macy Paso Robles CA 93446
Kathy Algarin Granite Bay CA 95746
gordon reed Newport Beach CA 92663
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Pamela Sieck Tiburon CA 94920
sanja dimitrijevic Coronado CA 92118
Carol Gold Fairfax CA 94930
Mia Dravis Rancho Cucamonga CA 91730
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Margarita Perez Sylmar CA 91342
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Amy Hile Oak Park CA 91377
Fred Granlund North Hollywood CA 91601
Dorothy Skinner Petaluma CA 94952
Inge Wagner Los Angeles CA 90020-2020
Paul Vesper Berkeley CA 94703-1237
Ellen Koivisto San Francisco CA 94122
Anna Rull North Hills CA 91343
Todd Heiler Arcata CA 95521
Barbara Mintz Encinitas CA 92024
Brooke Lindauer Clovis CA 93612-4839
Marc Vezian San Jose CA 95132-2073
Sherry Dunn Penn Valley CA 95946
Kathy Grant Nevada city CA 95959
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Kenneth Althiser Cherry Valley CA 92223
Richard Robinson Manhattan Beach CA 90266
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Simone Boudriot Tujunga CA 91042
Rosa Baeza Reseda CA 91335
Carolyn Boor Rancho Cucamonga CA 91730
Richard M O'Donnell La Quinta CA 92253
Antonia Powell Venice CA 90291-3641
Dehra Iverson Costa Mesa CA 92627
Janine Giaime Valley Village CA 91607-3809
Patti Davis Santa Monica CA 90403
Citizen Voter Westport CA 95488
Jayne Gerry Inverness CA 94937

Jayne Cerny Inverness CA 94937
Pam Zimmerman Santa Rosa CA 95404
Karen Chinn Cloverdale CA 95425
Susan Bogdanovich San Pedro CA 90732
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Beverly Harris Beverly Hills CA 90212-3505
M. Russi South San Francisco CA 94080
Eric Zeiler Eureka CA 95501
Heather Pargen Whittier CA 90603-3151
A. Fay Belmont CA 94002
Barbara Roe Santa Monica CA 90405
Edward Sullivan San Francisco CA 94116-2077
Shawn Johnson Encinitas CA 92024
robert Altman San Francisco CA 94112
Anita Kreager Alpine CA 91901
Amanda Young Lake Forest CA 92630-3729
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Sherry Kritzer Moss Beach CA 94038
John Lamb Sierra Madre CA 91024
Ann Haley Arnold CA 95223
Debi McDowell Barstow CA 92311-2831
Vira Confectioner Sunol CA 94586
Cressie Patterson Chino CA 91710
Lawrence Spinner Thousand Oaks CA 91360
Gomi Bin wmstr CA 92683
Linda Howie Woodland Hills CA 91367-4329
Karen Reid Santa Rosa CA 95406-0641
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Maggie McEldowney Los Angeles CA 90042
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Michael Ames Castro Valley CA 94546-1125
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D Lewis Long Beach CA 90809
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jana Lynne Webb Niernberger Muhar Santa Rosa CA 95401
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Stacey	Rohrbaugh	Willits	CA	95490
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Amy	Sullivan	Los Angeles	CA	90066
Georgia	Labey	Lakeside	CA	92040
Tracy	Turner	Los Alamitos	CA	90720
Joe	Marsala	Fairfield	CA	94534
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Carol	Taylor	OJAI	CA	93023-3055
Jacqueline	Pehkoff	Foothill Ranch	CA	92610
Marcia	Garceau	San Diego	CA	92129
Don	Schwartz	Larkspur	CA	94939
Gerald	Alexander	Windsor	CA	95492
Cathy	Stansell	Frazier Park	CA	93225
Mika	Menasco	San Diego	CA	92114-2810
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pauline	bedford	joshua tree	CA	92252
Jan	Salas	Santa Cruz	CA	95062
Jane	Neufeld	San Jose	CA	95127
Cecil	Ralph	San Diego	CA	92104
Simone	Sello	Los Angeles	CA	90035
nancy j	danard	berkeley	CA	94703-1884
Mari	Dominguez	Linden	CA	95236
Glenn R.	Stewart, Ph.D.	La Verne	CA	91750
Veronica	Baez	Placerville	CA	95667
Percy	Hicks-Severn	Newbury Park	CA	91320
Querido	Galdo	Oakland	CA	94601
Rebecca	Paulson	Concord	CA	94519-2361
Richard	Puaoi	Novato	CA	94949-6627
Robert	Rush	Pasadena	CA	91107
Sally	Madigan	Meadow Vista	CA	95722
Sandra	Noah	Los Angeles	CA	90036-4729
Sandy	Banks	Playa Del Rey	CA	90293-7758
Sharon	Cagey	Sherman Oaks	CA	91411
Sherry	Marsh	Oceanside	CA	92056
Stephanie	Beezley	Livermore	CA	94551
Stephanie	Villasenor	San Ramon	CA	94582
Stephen	Jacobs	Los Angeles	CA	90028-7808
Susanne	Berntsson	Eastvale	CA	92880
Suzanne	Meredith	Rio Vista	CA	94571
Tamra	Schnitman	Calabasas	CA	91302
Blanca Luz	Ross	Fullerton	CA	92833
Tim	Dressel	San Diego	CA	92109
Victoria	Silver	Irvine	CA	92617
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Carlos	Nunez	Reseda	CA	91335
Carolyn	Pettis	Saugus	CA	91350
Colleen	Lobel	San Diego	CA	92126

Connie Devine San Jose CA 95138
Constantine Bogios Walnut Creek CA 94597
Cynthia Hellmuth Benicia CA 94510-4454
Dale Riehart san francisco CA 94107
Darren Frale Los Angeles CA 90065-3214
Dawn Dulac San Diego CA 92114-1527
Deborah Santone Pleasant Hill CA 94523
Deirdre Brownell Burbank CA 91504
diane hestich Colton CA 92324-4532
Diane Mojica Arcadia CA 91006
Alvaro de Regil Moorpark CA 93021-3111
Edie Bruce el cerrito CA 94530
Edith Gonzalez La Puente CA 91744
Edith Ogella Santa Barbara CA 93111
ernest boyd sunnyvale CA 94087-2711
Eury Ramos Hayward CA 94541-1967
Faye Soares Pollock Pines CA 95726
Frank Eichenberg South Lake Tahoe CA 96150-4513
Frank Ortiz Los Angeles CA 90022
Greg Rosas Castro Valley CA 94546
Hal Forsen San Clemente CA 92672-3947
Heather McHugh Oakland CA 94611
Jane McGraw San Bernardino CA 92404
Jesse Calderon Baldwin Park CA 91706-4431
Jessica Fielden Oakland CA 94611
Anita Simons oceanside CA 92056
Jim McClure San Jose CA 95125-2637
Joan Sitnick Encino CA 91436
John Ferrante Concord CA 94520
Jordan Hashemi-Briskin Palo Alto CA 94306
joyce heyn Poway CA 92064-4071
Judith Butts Mountain View CA 94040
Julie Jolley Laguna Beach CA 92651
Karen Mussette beverly hills CA 90211-1807
Karl Koessel McKinleyville CA 95519
Kate Ague Menlo Park CA 94025
A.L. Hern Los Angeles CA 90049-1634
Kathleen Devaney Solvang CA 93463-2924
Kathleen Obre Laguna Beach CA 92651-2553
Kelly Henderson Los Angeles CA 90064
Ken Windrum Los Angeles CA 90004-4913
Kim Messmer Santa Clara CA 95051
Kurt Cruger Long Beach CA 90804-5515
Laura Divenere Los Angeles CA 90020
Lawrie MacMillan Modesto CA 95355
Lea Boyle Danville CA 94526
leslie spoon Los Osos CA 93402
Lily Lau-Enright Sacramento CA 95819-1759
Lin Heidt San Diego CA 92109-3352
Linda Petrulias Cazadero CA 95421
Lindsay Mugglestone Berkeley CA 94705
Louise Zimmer Temecula CA 92592-8267

Lynn Howard San Diego CA 92109
Marian Kauffman Santa Barbara CA 93110
Janet Thew Loomis CA 95650
Mayumi Knox San Marino CA 91108
Miranda Mendoza Santa Rosa CA 95401
Nancy Paskowitz Oakland CA 94609
nancy tingey Fresno CA 93704-3470
Nicole Amato Vacaville CA 95688
Pam Slater-Price Del Mar CA 92014
Ellen McCann Escondido CA 92027
Forest Frasieur Benicia CA 94510
Thomas Conroy Manhattan Beach CA 90266-6108
Michele Halligan Ukiah CA 95482-4206
Norm Wilmes Yuba City CA 95991-6582
James lennon arcata CA 95521
ronnie tiner ca CA 92277
Robert Spotts Oakley CA 94561
Nancy Hunter Gold River CA 95670-6214
vicki Smith Running Springs CA 92382
DR ROBIN BENTEL NOVATO CA 94945
kate nyne oakland CA 94601
Jorge Belloso-curiel Richmond CA 94801
Kevin Connell Sunnyvale CA 94085-3716
FLORA ROSAS LOS ANGELES CA 90038
Sallie Robbins-Druian Palm Springs CA 92264
Leigh Castellon Richmond CA 94804
Gladys Porter San Luis Obispo CA 93405
Sarah Hogan Calgary CA 90210
Grace Ramirez Eureka CA 95502
Dena Hernandez-Kosche Glendale CA 91201-2585
Cristina Jitcov Torrance CA 90504
Leslie Paskus Silverado CA 92676
Judy Carlson Newport Beach CA 92660
Heather Ablog El Dorado Hills CA 95762
Pam Miller N. Highlands CA 95660
R Wells Los Angeles CA 90020-2727
Keiko M. San Francisco CA 94118
Janet Flanagan Catheys Valley CA 95306
Mark Gotvald Pleasant Hill CA 94523
Marge Schwartz S.B. CA 93121
Connie Day Sacramento CA 95835
Paul Stanley West Hollywood CA 90069
andres romero suarez Hermosa Beach CA 90254-2034
Sylvia Vairo Santa Cruz CA 95062
Alison Shovlain San Diego CA 92116-2002
Scott Rubel Los Angeles CA 90031-1633
Cayley Stoker Malibu CA 90265
Anne Parzick Corona Del Mar CA 92625
Dianna Wallace Scotts Valley CA 95066-3324
Irma Gallardo Ontario CA 91764-1040
Lisa Ann Kelly & Family Santa Barbara CA 93101
Miriam Baum Alta Loma CA 91701

Jean G. Cochran Pomona CA 91767
Tara Gonzales Atascadero CA 93422
Cathy Janacua Sherman Oaks CA 91423
Janet Crist-Whitzel Half Moon Bay CA 94019
Rita Carlson Eureka CA 95502
Jo Baxter Santa Monica CA 90402
Mary Hicklin San Diego CA 92117
Angela Cancilla Herschel west hills CA 91307
mom minidis West Sacramento CA 95691-5462
Docken Polk Ventura CA 93001-2114
Adrienne Metter Santa Barbara CA 93105-2510
Joanne Snyder San Diego CA 92123
Ann Bein Los Angeles CA 90064-2026
Christina Nillo W. Hollywood CA 90069
Randall Boltz San Diego CA 92111
Susan Martin North Hollywood CA 91605-4407
Steven Acosta Los Angeles CA 90011-5900
Mary Willcutt Eureka CA 95503
Mija Gentes Saratoga CA 95070
Joseph Dadgari Los Angeles CA 90049
Ann Graves San Leandro CA 94578-1603
Pat Dufau San Clemente CA 92673
C Emerson sacramento CA 95816
Janice Beyer Stockton CA 95203-1629
Brianda Puig LA CA 90071
Colleen Bergh Santa Ana CA 92704-6720
S. Andregg Emeryville CA 94608
Ady Larsen Brisbane CA 94005
marci smith Los Osos CA 93402-1617
Michael Dorer Fremont CA 94538
Bob McCleary Roseville CA 95747
Ken Sanford Escondido CA 92029-4307
Linda Martin El Cajon CA 92021
Stephan Foley Ojai CA 93023-3607
Joanne Britton San Diego CA 92115
Reed Fenton Lake Balboa CA 91406-2738
su shain Oakland CA 94606
April Parkins oakland CA 94611-5115
Monica McKeown-Gallicho Concord CA 94521
Jackie Pomies San Francisco CA 94122
Rika Ishii-Price Half Moon Bay CA 94019
Carlos Arnold Santa Maria CA 93455
Kris Cordova Loma Linda CA 92354-3923
Sandra McPherson Davis CA 95616
Aimee Darrow Venice CA 90291
Michael Nierhake Martinez CA 94553
Laura Collins Rancho Cordova CA 95670
Margaret Damico La Jolla CA 92037-7648
Felicia Chase Encino CA 91436
Kurt Speidel San Clemente CA 92673
Annai Camacho Elk Grove CA 95757
Arlene Baker Berkeley CA 94704
Rati Jio Castro Valley CA 94546

Pat Jio Castro Valley CA 94546
Martin Henderson Goleta CA 93117
Kendra Knight Millbrae CA 94030
Pamela Peck Watsonville CA 95076
Lisa Lewis santa cruz CA 95062
Steven Hibshman Foster City CA 94404
Linda Shilton Los Angeles CA 90064
anne urrutia Daly City CA 94015-3041
Elizabeth Vande Streek Lincoln CA 95648
Nelson Molina Buena Park CA 90620
Denise Edwards Cottonwood CA 96022-7617
Jan Repp B.P. CA 91706
Blaise Brockman arcadia CA 91007
Jack Branson Sacramento CA 958184309
Dale Evilsizer Lancaster CA 93536-4522
Maureen Mcdonald Los Angeles CA 90068
Laura Newton Cathedral City CA 92234
Jami Muhle Manhattan Beach CA 90266
D & Thomas San Diego CA 92115-6564
Sharon Ketcherside Lincoln CA 95648-8318
Adam Trauger Long Beach CA 90815
Charlene Kerchevall Oceanside CA 92054-4040
emme g ch CA 902101234
Priscilla Urquieta Los Angeles CA 90026
Steve Iverson Newport Beach CA 92660
Natasha Saravanja San Francisco CA 941312013
Roger Ewing Agoura Hills CA 91301
Carol Brady Citrus Heights CA 95610
L Douglas Penngrove CA 94951
Pamela Scott Boulder Creek CA 95006
Linda Baxter Yreka CA 96097
Amelia Jones Santa Monica CA 90405
Rosann Lynch Monterey CA 93940
Dianna Ruggiero San Diego CA 92120-4629
Joan Murray Los Angeles CA 90066
Deb Conant Gilroy CA 95020
Marsha Armstrong Los Gatos CA 95032
Nancy Fomenko San Jose CA 95135
Kristy Rotermund Nevada City CA 95959
Joseph Rodríguez san jose CA 95121
Thomas Filip Moorpark CA 93021
Robert Kessler Oakland CA 94610
Alisha Bettinsoli Reedley CA 93654
david bowman San Francisco CA 94117-2987
m sanders petaluma CA 94952
Diana Slawson Stockton CA 95207
Vito Amaya San Diego CA 92139
Jean Wolstenholme Monrovia CA 91016-2409
Connie Wigen Sacramento CA 95831-4557
Mary Ann Allen Redding CA 96003-5643
Ronald Bogin El Cerrito CA 94530-1424
Michael Sawyer Sacramento CA 95864
Steve Crase Antioch CA 94509

Karen	Espanol	Culver City	CA	90230-4873
Sarah	Sakakibara	Los Angeles	CA	90045
Devin	Romero	San Francisco	CA	94118
Edward	Macan	Eureka	CA	95501
Anthony	Jammal	Roseville	CA	95661
Janice	Schenfisch	Moorpark	CA	93021
Karsten	Mueller	Santa Cruz	CA	95062
Sandra	Herrera	Parlier	CA	93648
Carolyn	Tammel	San Jose	CA	95124
Glenn	Mullins	Buena Park	CA	90620
Linda	Calbreath	Chico	CA	95928-9433
Jessica	Mitchell-Shihabi	Antelope	CA	95843
Benedetta	Santopietro	Escondido	CA	92026
Connelee	Shaw	San Jose	CA	95112-3031
Roberta	Newman	mill valley	CA	94941
Ann	Wasgatt	Roseville	CA	95678
Jeannie	Pollak	Oxnard	CA	93036-6210
Marco	Khanlian	La Crescenta	CA	91214-3938
Kathy	Govreau	Morongo Valley	CA	92256
arena	catacutan	Lemon Grove	CA	91945
Mary Ann	Taylor	Vallejo	CA	94591
a	h	woodacre	CA	94973
Valerie	Romero	Quincy	CA	95971
Sheree	Courtney	Concord	CA	94521-3643
Wendy	Bowers-Gachesa	Watsonville	CA	95076
Clover	Seely	Grass Valley	CA	95949-8757
Anne	Fragasso	Leucadia	CA	92023
Dennis	Beall	Cazadero	CA	95421
Kathy	Kelly	Ventura	CA	93003
Ruby	loust	fullerton	CA	92831
Philip	Lefcourt	Pasadena	CA	91101
L	Folsom	Sherman Oaks	CA	91403
James	Dawson	Davis	CA	95618
Michael	Park	Albany	CA	94706
Beah	Robinson	Fort Bragg	CA	95437
Gregg	Oelker	Altadena	CA	91001
Lisa	Tenorio	Concord	CA	94520
Kurt	Gross	San Diego	CA	92176
jennifer	Bradley	Santa Monica	CA	90404
Steve	Wozniak	Encinitas	CA	92024-4714
Shawn	Jones-Bunn	Avila Beach	CA	93424
Rhonda	Oxley	Capitola	CA	95010
John	Essman	Healdsburg	CA	95448
Daphne	Lake	Auburn	CA	95603
J. Barry	Gurdin	San Francisco	CA	94122-4617
Carole	Dadurka	San Clemente	CA	92673-2705
Jane	August	Topanga	CA	90290
Arlene	Elischer	Greenbrae	CA	94904
Anna	Schofield	Los Angeles	CA	90024
Debra	Jurey	Templeton	CA	93465
Cindy	Meyers	La Selva Beach	CA	95076-1609
Judith	Bayer	San Diego	CA	92126

Elizabeth clapp Vallejo CA 94591-8569
Peggy Sharp Marina CA 93933
John Wagoner Mill Valley CA 94941
Fredrick Seil Berkeley CA 94708
Anita Gryska Carmel CA 93923
Barbara Kenton San Clemente CA 92673-3808
Kelle Murphy Corona CA 92880
Robert Jones Alameda CA 94501
Jim Leske North Hills CA 91343
Leslie Tate national city CA 91950
marie pappas Berkeley CA 94705-1233
I Kessler Healdsburg CA 95448
sharon mcdaniel Oceanside CA 92058-0803
fredrica kanterr Riverside CA 92501
Sandy Williams Covina CA 91723
Maria Sanchez Sacramento CA 95825
Heidi Bean Corona CA 92879
Sheila Messer Santa Rosa CA 95401
Sam Butler Los Angeles CA 90045
Sharon Glave Hermosa Beach CA 90254
Elizabeth Molenkamp Huntington Beach CA 92646-8212
Barbara Whyman Ventura CA 93001
Susan Hampton El Cerrito CA 94530
Bonnie Hirai Eureka CA 95501
sandra butler Los Angeles CA 90045-2753
Russell Weisz Santa Cruz CA 95060-6109
Iliana Lopez Palmdale CA 93591-3240
Kim Tran Santa Ana CA 92707
F Sylvester Millbrae CA 94030
Nancy's Gutierrez Palm desert CA 92260
Annette Benton Pittsburg CA 94565-7032
Cindy Koch Long Beach CA 90807
Ed Cary El Segundo CA 90245
Deanna Pini Santa barbara CA 93103
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Lee Black Jamul CA 91935
David Hammond Willits CA 95490
Marie Lehman Petaluma CA 94954
Cheri Johnson Walnut Grove CA 95690
Ellen Tubbs Sacramento CA 95864
Leilani Leszkay Valley Glen CA 91401-4044
sandra drury Apple Valley CA 92308
Miles Ciletti Los Angeles CA 90006-6348
Frances Alet Calabasas CA 91302
Cindy Chic Chino Hills CA 91709
Patricia Arthur Atherton CA 94027-6420
stephanie vovas Los Angeles CA 90026-1564
John Powers Forestville CA 95436
Vicki Tate Pealuma CA 94952
Frances Blythe Dixon CA 95620
Amy Zink Oakland CA 94606
Susan Himes-Powers San Francisco CA 94122

Karen Moreno Santa Cruz CA 95062
Cristina Smith Los Angeles CA 90019
Debra Conkey Laguna Beach CA 92651
Tim Butler San Francisco CA 94109
Joan Sullivan Ventura CA 93003
Linda Schoppert Napa CA 94559
LindaJane Miller Malibu CA 90265
Teri Forester Citrus Heights CA 95610
Kelly Dunn Manhattan beach CA 90266
Catherine Macan Davis CA 95616-3766
Christine Bassett Sebastopol CA 95472-5905
Robert Seltzer Malibu CA 90265-5630
Art Raya Hemet CA 92545
Ed Elliott Ben Lomond CA 95005
Rhys Atkinson Corte Madera CA 94925
B. E. WLV CA 91361-4500
Beth Herndobler Herndobler Pasadena CA 91106
Zachary Todd Long Beach CA 90808
Robert Bartlett Porterville CA 93257
Edmund Wright McKinleyville CA 95519
Andy Lupenko Lemon Grove CA 91945
Pam Griffin Camarillo CA 93012-8919
Dale Beasley Visalia CA 93291
Irene Roos Lakeside CA 92040
Janet Beatty San Luis Obispo CA 93401
Jerry Oliver Sylmar CA 91342-5503
Laurie Neill Smith River CA 95567
Lori White Lower Lake CA 95457-1055
Mark Hanisee Riverside CA 92506
Jane Lyon Rohnert Park CA 94928
Nina Macdonald Silverado CA 92676
Art Van Kampen Los Angeles CA 90068
Vicki Call Santee CA 92071-1844
Robert Meier Los Angeles CA 90042-2104
Ryan Schrader Bellflower CA 90706
Rena Zaman-Zade Escondido CA 92027
Steven Korson Riverside CA 92503
Vito Degrigoli Palm Springs CA 92262
Stephen Greenberg Nevada City CA 95959-2856
sue kremer Solana Beach CA 92075
Teresa Sullivan Los Angeles CA 90065-1727
Annie Frees Highland CA 92346-2316
Martin Marcus San Diego CA 92120-1112
Noel Park Rancho Palos Verdes CA 90275
Geraldine Card Exeter CA 93221-1101
Jill Davine Culver City CA 90232-3207
Tina Pirazzi Long Beach CA 90814-1934
Cindy MacDonald Suisun City CA 94585-3013
Blake Wu Lafayette CA 94549-3503
Steve Ongerth Richmond CA 94801-4145
Nancy Parsons-Borland Venice CA 90291
Kim Gentes Woodland Hills CA 91367

Heather Fadden Santa Rosa CA 95403
Muriel Thompson Ukiah CA 95482
Bill Leikam Mountain View CA 94040-1197
Joe Donohoe Saratoga CA 95070-5969
Keiko Barrett National City CA 91950-8229
Donna Drabek Sebastopol CA 95472-2045
Raquel Cito Moreno valley CA 92557
Allison Moffett Pasadena CA 91105
Nancy Smith Santa Monica CA 90401
Alma Bibanco San Bernardino CA 92410-1006
Laura Schaap Davis CA 95618
Deborah Bortot Fontana CA 92335
J Angell Rescue CA 95672
Renee LeClaire Silverado CA 92676
Jenn Lindsley San Diego CA 92109
Laura Herndon Burbank CA 91505
Sarah Valentine Saratoga CA 95070
Aimee Wyatt Ojai CA 93023-9506
Gida Naser Vacaville CA 95687
Ernie Walters Union City CA 94587
Rachel Parham Los Angeles CA 90039
Nancy Liela Wallace Nelson Mendocino CA 95460-0611
Linda Smith Carmel CA 93921
Virginia Watson Los Angeles CA 90026
Laura Shamas Pacific Palisades CA 90272
Nic Duon Santa Ana CA 92705-5812
Kelley Clare Tahoe city CA 96145
Barbara Cunningham Glendale CA 91205
B. Chan San Diego CA 92131
Brent Spencer Paramount CA 90723-6875
Robert Mutascio Venice CA 90291
C. Martinez san diego CA 92104
Carina Chadwick Los Angeles CA 90019
F. Carlene Reuscher Costa Mesa CA 92626-4840
Thomas Tataranowicz Malibu CA 90265-3041
Caryn Graves Berkeley CA 94702
Charles Byrne San Francisco CA 94115
Candace Lamoree HEMET CA 92545
Carroll Abshier Lakewood CA 90713
Claire Levy San Francisco CA 94102
Donald Taylor fair oaks CA 95628
Cathy Cretser Vacaville CA 95688
David Burtis Calistoga CA 94515
Lori Dick Claremont CA 91711
Evan Beattie Los Angeles CA 90029
Jonathan Eden BERKELEY CA 94707
Lyn Younger San José CA 95111
Elaine Larson Sonoma CA 95476
Evan McDermit Fullerton CA 92832-1110
Peter Fairley Kings Beach CA 96143
Frances Goff Pasadena CA 91107
Gail Lytle Turlock CA 95380-3640
Gary Goetz Pacific Grove CA 93950

Gary Goetz Pacific Grove CA 93950
Gayle Smith Carmel CA 93923
Beth Goode Topanga CA 90290
Greg Fite Hayward CA 94541-4328
Linda Greene La Habra CA 90631
Fjaere Mooney North Hollywood CA 91606
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Howard Whitaker Gold River CA 95670
R. Zierikzee San Francisco CA 94118
Jay Rutherdale Sacramento CA 95826
Jenny Blair Palm Desert CA 92211
Jeanette Desmond Camarillo CA 93010
Jennifer Cartwright San Clemente CA 92673-3532
Jeffrey Hemenez San Ramon CA 94583
Jim Lansing San Francisco CA 94133
John Carroll Elk Grove CA 95624
Jon Bazinet Vallejo CA 94591-7259
John Teevan Chula Vista CA 91914
Natalie Blasco Anderson CA 96007
James Woods Penn Valley CA 95946
M. K. Russell Mill Valley CA 94941-2240
Kathy Hanson Huntington Beach CA 92649
Kristina Fukuda Los Angeles CA 90034
Ms. Lilith Ventura CA 93003-4929
Linda Kourtis San Diego CA 92117
Sherard Wood Dublin CA 94568-2324
Margot Lowe Oceanside CA 92056
Mariano Marquez, III San Francisco CA 94124
Marjorie Xavier Hayward CA 94542-2152
Mark Reback Los Angeles CA 90039
Mark Cappetta Rancho Mirage CA 92270
Marilynn Russell Santa Rosa CA 95407
Maryan Infield San Luis Obispo CA 93401-5822
Mary McAuliffe Los Angeles CA 90028
Maryfrances Careccia West Hollywood CA 90048-6032
Marlene Mills Santa Barbara CA 93111
Lynne Weiske los angeles CA 90048
Michelle Palladine Palm Springs CA 92262-6620
Lauren Murdock Santa Barbara CA 93110
Roberto Romo San Francisco CA 94121
Ed Wolf Buena Park CA 90620
Diana Bohn Berkeley CA 94707
Nola Nordmarken Pasadena CA 91101
Sue Hall Castro Valley CA 94546
Karen O'Rourke Canoga Park CA 91304
Pat Blackwell-Marchant Castro Valley CA 94552-1708
John Everett Grass Valley CA 95945
Paula Zerzan Sonoma CA 95476-7250
William Crist Pacifica CA 94044
Rich Moser SANTA BARBARA CA 93111
Pam Rogers San Bernardino CA 92404-4944
Robert Lawrence San Francisco CA 94118
Rondi Saslow Oakland CA 94618

Richard Wightman Arcadia CA 91006
Ryan Davis Burbank CA 91502
Sarosh Patel Sunnyvale CA 94087
S. Chapek San Francisco CA 94118
Kathy Bilicke Los Angeles CA 90069
Stephanie Clark concord CA 94520
Shelby Homer San Diego CA 92104
Julie Sicaud Sebastopol CA 95472
Noah Youngelson Los Angeles CA 90066
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Steve Gross La Mesa CA 91941-7061
Susan Ryan Los Angeles CA 90019
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Tanya Baccarat Petaluma CA 94952-2643
Elaine Alfaro Felton CA 95018
Vicki Gruman Walnut Creek CA 94597
Louise Rangel Santa Paula CA 93060
David Fura San Leandro CA 94577-4526
Karen Robinson Redwood City CA 94062
Carolyn Dennison Garden Grove CA 92840-6041
Inge Bjorkman Placerville CA 95667
June Bullied Toronto CA 12355
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Roger Hollander Tarzana CA 91356
Faye Rye Torrance CA 90505
Barbara Harper Castroville CA 95012
Martin Tripp Santa Clarita CA 91390
Patrice Wallace Santa Cruz CA 95060-5631
Mark S. Weinberger San Francisco CA 94121-1867
Brenda Perry Napa CA 94559
Erin Garcia Tarzana CA 91356
Deanna Chechile San Francisco CA 94116
Lynne Boynton Corte madera CA 94925
Casee Maxfield Los Angeles CA 90028
Patricia Lewis Fresno CA 93726
Brandon Lyddon Los Angeles CA 90051
Michele Freye Long Beach CA 90808-2418
Heidi Schmitz Sausalito CA 94965
Kris Gata Redondo Beach CA 90277
JL Angell Rescue CA 95672
Gail Lopez San Jose CA 95125
Barbara Jacobsen Sonoma CA 95476-6840
Ronit Corry Santa Barbara CA 93101
Janice Boyd Valencia CA 91355
Jillana Laufer Studio City CA 91604
Karen Guma Petaluma CA 94952-1934
Annie Phillips San Diego CA 92101
James Noordyk San Diego CA 92109
Michael Curtis San Diego CA 92103
Diane Wesson Lemon Grove CA 91945
David P. Peterson San Diego CA 92116
James Hubbard LOS ANGELES CA 90018-1027

Damon Brown Los Angeles CA 90016
Shereen McDade Los Angeles CA 90018
Shirl Pitesky Los Angeles CA 90049
Chuck Loch Los Angeles CA 90036-5294
Bruce Wimberley El Segundo CA 90245
Donna Erie El Segudno CA 90245
Billie Langley Torrance CA 90501
melanie fisher calabasas CA 91302
jerry persky Santa monica CA 90403
Kita Mann Santa Monica CA 90405
Jesse Croxton Venice CA 90291
Kevin Curtis Fullerton CA 92832
Susan Petrella Fullerton CA 92831
Timothy Davis Garden Grove CA 92845
Matilde Navarro Garden Grove CA 92841
Nalani Ha'o Long Beach CA 90808
Armando A. Garcia Perris CA 92571
Molly Brent San Pedro CA 90732
Ellen Easum San Pedro CA 90732-4130
Frank Anderson San Pedro CA 90731-1840
Gina Jennings Azusa CA 91702
Susan Higgins Glendale CA 91203
Christopher Bachman South Pasadena CA 91030
Gail Wilke Sunland CA 91040-1356
Taryn Braband Agoura CA 91301
Ron Lopez Winnetka CA 91306
R G Thousand Oaks CA 91362
Karlotta Sumida Porter Ranch CA 91326
Michael Konigsberg Reseda CA 91335
Felix Romero Mission Hills CA 91345
Nina Berry Van Nuys CA 91405
Lori Dixon Northridge CA 91325
Marianne Kai Sherman Oaks CA 91403
Sandra Christopher Burbank CA 91505-1856
Karen Mc Murray Burbank CA 91501
Lusine Karabadzhakyan Valley Village CA 91607
Timothy Murphy Burbank CA 91506
Thomas Campbell Studio City CA 91604-1130
David Alford Studio City CA 91604
William Dane San Bernardino CA 92407
Khai Hang Baldwin Park CA 91706
Jenna Bell LaVerne CA 91750
Sherry Althouse San Gabriel CA 91775
rebecca wang Azusa CA 91702-1579
Brian Benjamin Alpine CA 91901
Michelle Morgan Coronado CA 92118
Theodora Moriarty Spring Valley CA 91976
Janny Vogel Oceanside CA 92057
Donald Betts Oceanside CA 92057
Tasia Surch Rancho Santa Margarita CA 92688
Carol Boyd Escondido CA 92027
Deborah Sargent San Diego CA 92128-2657

Stephanie Gunn Ramona CA 92065
Robert Roberto Santee CA 92071
Darcy Wright Vista CA 92081
Ching-yi Lin San Diego CA 92128
Pat Doherty Cherry Valley CA 92223
Cassandra Williams Brawley CA 92227
Janet Rhodes Cathedral City CA 92234
George Klipfel II, CLS, MT(ASCP) Cathedral City CA 92234
Carl Luhring Vista CA 92083-4804
Paul & Cathy Bechtel Redlands CA 92373
Mary Rodarte Phelan CA 92371
Bob * nelson CA 90210
Rich Camp San Bernardino CA 92404
Sandy Kasper Hemet CA 92544
Rick Blain Temecula CA 92592
Jerry Napombhe Irvine CA 92620
Lorena Cox Irvine CA 92612
Stephanie Watters Trabuco Canyon CA 92679-3500
Nadine Larsen San Juan Capistrano CA 92675
Debora Michel Laguna Hills CA 92653
Adam Kaplan laguna beqach CA 92651
lloyd reynolds fountain valley CA 92708
Christine Sepulveda Anaheim CA 92802
Tim Covey Ventura CA 93003
David Cotner Ventura CA 93001
Suzanne Menne Camarillo CA 93010
Susan Kittinger Camarillo CA 93012
Pamela Morarre Simi Valley CA 93065
Deborah Nelson Simi Valley CA 93065
Carole Cole Santa Barbara CA 93103
Jessica Merrill Goleta CA 93117-2526
T. McCowan laguna woods CA 92637
Sharon Rumley Arroyo Grande CA 93420
Gary Beckerman Santa Ynez CA 93460
Celeste Andersen Solvang CA 93463
Leann Krizek Palmdale CA 93552
Patricia Savage Mammoth Lakes CA 93546
D Sifuentes Mammoth Lakes CA 93546
William Bailey Friant CA 93626-9703
Richard Lee Salinas CA 93907
Barney Scollan Carmel CA 93923
Michio Kaku Carmel CA 93922
Laurel Emsley Carmel CA 93923
Jeffrey Tischler Monterey CA 93940
Therese DeBing Pacific Grove CA 93950
Fereshteh Valamanesh Belmont CA 94002
George Ruiz San Carlos CA 94070
Rose Schlecker South San Francisco CA 94080
Bryna Chang Palo Alto CA 94306
Suzanne Rocca-Butler Menlo Park CA 94025
Ruth Muzzin Montara CA 94037
Kermit Cuff Mountain View CA 94041
Kirsten Helmquist Sunnyvale CA 94089

Kirsten Holmquist Sunnyvale CA 94089
Edwin Aiken Sunnyvale CA 94087
Krista Dana Sunnyvale CA 94087
Annette Hovorka Foster City CA 94404
Luci Evanston San bruno CA 94066
Allan Campbell San Jose CA 95132
Alfred Ackerknecht San Jose CA 95148-2725
Ruth Clifford San Jose CA 95126-4135
Lynne Ernst San Jose CA 95148
Desiree Mitchell San Francisco CA 94102
Kathryn Mazaika San Francisco CA 94105
Leonard Tremmel San Francisco CA 94115
Karen Brant San Francisco CA 94117
Joan Breiding San Francisco CA 94117
R. Dene Larson, Jr. San Francisco CA 94117
francesca prada San Francisco CA 94114
David Doering San Francisco CA 94109
Andrea Graff San Francisco CA 94131
Joseph * Sacramento CA 95821
Pierre Del Prato Sacramento CA 95831
Anne Carter San Ramon CA 94582
Sabrina Sarne Danville CA 94526
Janet Bindas Walnut Creek CA 94598
Greg Goodman Concord CA 94519
Lauren Schiffman El Cerrito CA 94530
Robert Palmer El Cerrito CA 94530
Hamsa Vicerra Richmond CA 94804
Christina LaRocca Vacaville CA 95687
Ana Elle SC CA 95051
Pamela Nitsos Fremont CA 94538
Hilary Danehy Fremont CA 94539
Bill Britton Livermore CA 94550
Ronda Wimmer Pittsburg CA 94565
Nancy Nilssen Dublin CA 94568
Amanda Rosenberg Oakland CA 94606
Ulrike Silkey Willits CA 95490
Greg Ratkovsky Oakland CA 94619
Pamela Ball San Leandro CA 94577
Felina Strait San Ramon CA 94582
Wendy Diamond Berkeley CA 94707
Steven Berman Berkeley CA 94703
Rory Alden Berkeley CA 94704
Linda Morgan San Pablo CA 94806
lee riney san Rafael CA 94901
Stephen Shaw San Rafael CA 94903
Joyce Seymour San Rafael CA 94901
Scott Madia Santa Rosa CA 95407
Tony Fuller Petaluma CA 94954
Margaret Wessels Aptos CA 95001
M. Leslie Milpitas CA 95035
Carolyn Kelso Santa Cruz CA 95062
Ted Cheeseman SANTA CRUZ CA 95060-6016
Daniel Goldberg Santa Cruz CA 95060

Daniel Goldberg Santa Cruz CA 95060
Denise Varner Santa Cruz CA 95062
Claudia Mackey Stockton CA 95209
Nicolette Froehlich Acampo CA 95220
Elizabeth Eisenbeis Lodi CA 95242
Simon Colman modesto CA 95350
Peggy Hochendoner Patterson CA 95363
Deborah Childers Modesto CA 95350
Janet Drew santa rosa CA 95403
Zora Hocking Santa Rosa CA 95401
Pamela Stewart Clearlake Oaks CA 95423-9325
David Coleman Cobb CA 95426
Donna Fabiano Forestville CA 95436
Cynthia Florenzen Healdsburg CA 95448
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debra vaughn Sonoma CA 95476
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John Stewart Redway CA 95560
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John Nadolski Antelope CA 95843
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Steve Wendt Chico CA 95928
Jamaica Friend of Defenders San Francisco CA 94112
Barbara Kiernan Olivehurst CA 95961-9370
Linda Freeman Yuba City CA 95991
Carmen Grant Alturas CA 96101
Dudley & Candace Campbell Valley Glen CA 91401-1329
Loretta Caruana Newport Beach CA 92660
Melissa Waters Laguna Niguel CA 92677-1447
Suzanne Beaton Beverly Hills CA 90210-1901
Al Paris San Diego CA 92106
Lesley Meyer Los Angeles CA 90042
Consuelo Rovirosa West Covina CA 91790
Hannah Fullmer Fullerton CA 92831
Kristin Young Buena Park CA 90620
Robert Ortiz Novato CA 94945
Sarah Stryhanyn Emeryville CA 94608
Karen Comegys-Wortz Santa Monica CA 90405-2723
Angela Gantos Tiburon CA 94920
Martin Baclija Indio CA 92203
Susan Von Schmacht Watsonville CA 95076
Sonja Roth Los Angeles CA 90064
Henry Kruger Eureka CA 95501
Jason Perlman Los Angeles CA 90034
Marisa Landsberg Manhattan Beach CA 90266
Marilyn Tovar Stockton CA 95210
Roxie Piatigorski West Sacramento CA 95605
Janet Perlman Berkeley CA 94705

B Dudney, MD Forestville CA 95436
Susan Hood Sacramento CA 95821
Karen McCaw Los Angeles CA 90043
Denise Alvarado Petaluma CA 94954
Joseph Razo Camarillo CA 93012
Ken Rosen Beverly Hills CA 90212
Eileen Robinson Orange CA 92868
Gerard Ridella Castro Valley CA 94546
Bruce Monfross Fair Oaks CA 95628
Tem Narvios San Francisco CA 94134
Richard Patenaude Hayward CA 94541-3477
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Judy Alter Los Angeles CA 90045
Sarah Alvarez Torrance CA 90505
Mimi Abers Berkeley CA 94707-2624
Michael Tomczyszyn San Francisco CA 94132
Stephanie Glatt Buellton CA 93427
Helen Webb Redlands CA 92373
Mary Zamagni Valley Springs CA 95252
Hana Correa La Quinta CA 92253
Mary Brooks Frazier Park CA 93225-9611
B. Rodriguez Hercules CA 945473640
Bonnie Elsten Long Beach CA 90803
Aaron Kenna La Mesa CA 91942
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Pamela Beard Huntington Beach CA 92646
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Ann Dorsey Northridge CA 91325
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Amber Eby San Francisco CA 94118
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Carla Holmes Los Altos CA 94022
Judy Shively San Diego CA 92101-7829
Janet Harris El Cajon CA 92020
Dorothy Davies San Francisco CA 94114
Bayne Ullrich San Marcos CA 92078
Belinda Valdez San Diego CA 92154
Oneyda Perez Monrovia CA 91016-4494
Debra Wills Oakland CA 94610
Jeff Levicke V Village CA 91607
Deborah Collodel Malibu CA 90265
Tamara CAIN Sacramento CA 95826
Melissa Martinez Los Angeles CA 90066
Suzanne Torkar Carlsbad CA 92009
Susan Hartwig Big Bear City CA 92314
Diana Kunce South Lake Tahoe CA 96150
Myrian Monnet Pasadena CA 91101
Barnara Magliocca Nevada City CA 95959-9551
Gary Connaught SHASTA LAKE CA 96019
Sylvia Sullivan Goleta CA 93117-2827

Nicolas Duon

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, July 20, 2020 3:35:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:22
IP Address: 69.242.199.245

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

If trophy hunting was allowed by the state of Montana, iconic wilderness areas like the Bob Marshall, Great Bear, Scapegoat, Lee Metcalf, Absaroka-Beartooth, and Cabinet Mountains Wilderness would no longer be safe havens for the Great Bear.

Grizzlies are keystone species that help shape the ecosystems in which they live. Their numbers should be allowed to fluctuate according to habitat conditions, not some human-conceived population limit. Where grizzlies thrive, so will the wild places in which they live.

Allowing trophy hunters to shoot grizzly bears, including deep within wilderness areas, runs contrary to increasing grizzly bear numbers and allowing the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival.

COMPLETE

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Last Modified:	Tuesday, July 21, 2020 9:20:17 AM
Time Spent:	00:00:53
IP Address:	24.150.35.237

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Steve

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please do not allow trophy hunting

COMPLETE

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Started:	Tuesday, July 21, 2020 1:01:23 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, July 21, 2020 1:04:53 PM
Time Spent:	00:03:30
IP Address:	162.199.36.68

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Cynthia

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please say yes to secure the habitat and connectivity through road rem,oval and NO to trophy hunting

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 4:24:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:20
IP Address: 72.174.18.135

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Mike Bader

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I appreciate the hard work the council has done. However, for the listening public, your dysfunctional meeting today was agonizing. I feel the pro-grizzly hunting members will not take no for an answer and have made redundant efforts to depart from the agreed upon process and ground rules.

It is also untrue that no scientific evidence was presented that indicates hunting of grizzly bears is inappropriate. You apparently only listened to and read what you wanted to and ignored the rest. There is no valid analogy between Alaska and Montana.

The North American Model for Wildlife Management is highly utilitarian, antiquated and substantially divorced from current prevailing public attitudes. Even in Montana most are opposed to trophy hunting. I'm pro-hunting and fishing but there are many other values associated with wildlife. They aren't here just for our enjoyment and consumption.

Some council members seem overly concerned with pleasing Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The Council terminates at the end of August. Any proposal for hunting would come long after you are no longer a deliberative body and would go through a lengthy public comment process and an Environmental Impact Statement. The idea your input on hunting grizzly bears is vital to this process is overblown. You can weigh in along with everybody else as you will be members of the general public, no more or no more less than anybody else.

COMPLETE

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Time Spent:	00:03:08
IP Address:	174.27.162.123

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Scott MacButch

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

There is no scientific evidence that hunting increases social tolerance of grizzly bears, or reduces the number of conflicts. The Council should prioritize proven conflict prevention strategies and education and outreach – not a trophy hunt.

The Council has acknowledged the importance of Indigenous perspectives in regard to grizzly bear management in Montana. Many Tribes in Montana and around the country are opposed to hunting of the great bear, and the Council should live up to its intent to respect and honor Indigenous viewpoints by recommending that Montana does not initiate hunting of grizzly bears.

The Council should also consider strong national public opinion against trophy hunting of grizzly bears, and potential public backlash and loss of tourism revenue to the state and region if Montana initiates a trophy hunt, and recommends against a hunt.

Thank you for allowing me to comment,

Scott MacButch
Tetonia, ID

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 5:06:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:03
IP Address: 69.145.147.24

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Claudia Narcisco

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

The Charter is clear that recommendations require a consensus. The Role of Hunting does not have a consensus on the council. RECOMMENDATIONS is a clear heading in the Montana Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council Consolidated DRAFT Recommendations DRAFT OF JULY 17, 2020. If you want the document to have integrity, either remove RECOMMENDATIONS as a section heading, or add another section heading titled, i.e. GUIDANCE OTHER THAN RECOMMENDATION.

It is deceptive that at the end of a long day, and months of dialogue that in the last half hour an edit was made to a paragraph that undermined the process. The facilitator Shawn Johnson, reframed a paragraph removing a clear sentence to put the Role of Hunting into the Appendix. Furthermore, FWP Charles Sperry was clued to document a vote to place the role of hunting in the main body of the document, rather than in the Appendix as was initially intended.

It would be more honest to amend the Charter to say consensus is not a foundation of this Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council.

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 5:24:21 PM
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IP Address: 69.145.147.24

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Claudia Narcisco

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

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COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Chuck Irestone

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Montana Governor’s Grizzly Bear Advisory Committee
July 22, 2020

Dear Advisory Committee,

I would like to thank everyone on the Montana Governor’s Grizzly Bear Advisory Committee (GBAC) and all the agencies for their presentations and hard work on this important issue. I for one have learned a lot. I would like to give a special shout out to our grizzly bear managers on the front lines that work so hard with limited resources.

The grizzly and bears in general mean a lot to me. I feel in love with bears ever since I saw Big Mike, a giant polar bear, as a child in the Lincoln Park zoo in Chicago. I looked forward to seeing him every year. He lived to be in his thirties. I’ve seen many grizzlies and have had my fair share of encounters, almost stepping on one once, and I believe they are the great symbol of American wildness and an indicator to the health our ecosystem. I understand the challenges that Montana faces but they are not insurmountable with proper education, resources, and a celebration or two.

The GBAC recently has been discussing the role of hunting, note: not the possible role of hunting, in managing grizzly bears. I am not against hunting, I love wild game. But hunting this non-game sacred icon of the Native Americans is a direct insult to the Tribes and is a very myopic colonial view. Through presentations by grizzly bear managers, the GBAC has learned that hunting does not control population size or reduce conflicts. There is also no science that proves hunting will instill a fear in humans. (Grizzly bears are very smart, I would suggest reading the chapter in Enos Mills, 1919 classic The Grizzly called Trailing Without A Gun.) I hope these findings are conveyed by the GBAC to all Montanans to combat the rhetoric that a hunt would solve these issues. Based on the best available science a hunt clearly would not. A statement from the GBAC stating, “A hunt would have nothing to do with controlling bears on the landscape.” would easily clarify this issue. And with that said, how can you limit their movements?

The GBAC also learned directly that the Blackfeet and the CKST are opposed to a hunt. Other Tribes were not mentioned or invited to speak. It would have been nice to hear from some of the elders and tribal leaders of all the Montana tribes. The GBAC also, as far as I know, has not acknowledged the Piikani Nation Treaty that over 200 tribes have signed opposing any hunting of the grizzly. I heard some members of the GBAC try to come up with reasons to justify a hunt: the “tradition of hunting”, funding from having a hunt, and that the Tribes could have a ceremonial hunt. Even though no Tribe has expressed an interest in one. In Giving Voice to Bear: North American Indian Myths, Rituals, and Images of the Bear by David Rockwell. Rockwell lays out the traditions of hunting which mostly consisted of no hunting of grizzly bears and if some tribes did for ceremonial purposes, the method used was to club the bear as it emerged from the den in the spring. You simply cannot use the Tribes “tradition of hunting” to justify the white man’s reason for a hunt. It’s only for ego. There will be an irreparable backlash from around the world and to Montana’s tourism industry if grizzlies are hunted. And most importantly, it’s a direct insult to a core spiritual belief of all Tribes. I recently saw grizzly 399 and her four cubs in the Tetons. What an amazing experience that was, I fortunate enough to see her on a solo hike. These bears bring in thousands of tourists from around the world. This is the same bear a couple years ago a Wyoming outfitter threatened to shoot if he could hunt! The tourism and restoration economy is our future and The North American Wildlife Model of Wildlife Conservation needs to be reinvented and modernized to reflect that with the blessings of the Tribes. As society evolves it’s time to change the traditions. Look at all the changes in traditions due to the pandemic. We all need to adapt and evolve for the greater good. It’s We not Me.

I recently visited the Golden Triangle and visited some of the grizzly bear sighting locations posted on the Montana FWP Prairie Bear Monitor Facebook page. I came across a ranch along the Marias River with signs that read, “This ranch is historic breeding grounds for Bears, Bats, and Rattlesnakes. Harassing or killing is prohibited.” It was nice to see a welcoming sign for grizzlies and other wildlife. There is tolerance on the Front. I get that the ranchers have limited resources, don’t need the headache and the added expense, and don’t want to be told what to do. I grew up working on harness horse farms cleaning 17 stalls a day and then would work the third shift milking (yes, three times a day) at the second largest dairy farm in Michigan. I understand the plight of the family farmer. The dairy farm shut down in the late 80’s because it was in debt and couldn’t keep up with the corporate dairies. It was a perfect example for the reason Farm Aid came to be. I get that the added expense of dealing with grizzlies could be a huge burden and maybe the straw that

breaks the camels back. With that said, it's important that resources be obtained to help these family ranchers with the resources to bear proof their property. The grizzlies will keep moving into their historic range, allow them to roam. The open country of the plains is their most natural habitat. Let's work on getting funding to create organizations like the Tom Miner Basin Association and the Blackfoot Challenge.

One tool I would like to suggest for the public and ranchers is an online calculator for bear proofing your property. A calculator could give a rough estimate of how much it costs to put up an electric fencing or other deterrents. It could also estimate the cost of bear proof garbage bins for home, business owners, and municipalities. Maybe Defenders of Wildlife could help with this. Shelter Designs Yurts has an online yurt calculator for different yurt designs. Mimicking something like that could work. https://www.shelterdesigns.net/custom-yurt-kits-for-sale/yurt-cost-calculator

On November 15, 2020 there was a presentation in Missoula by five leading scientists about grizzly bear recovery. If you totaled the number of years that these scientists have working on grizzly bear conservation, it would be over 200 years. And yet, not one of these scientists has given a presentation to the Advisory Committee. Why is that? The presenters were Dr. Fred Allendorf, Regents Professor of Biology Emeritus and board member of the National Academy of Arts and Science; Dr. Lee H. Metzgar, former director of UM Zoology and Wildlife Biology Programs (ret.); Dr. Brian Horejsi, independent scientist with extensive experience in western and northwestern Canada; Dr. David Mattson, USGS (ret.) grizzly bear biologist; Dr. Frank Lance Craighead, expert on grizzly bears and the genetics of large carnivores. You also could have had Dr. Jesse Logan white bark pine specialist and grizzly bear experts Doug Peacock and Louisa Wilcox all of whom would add another 150 years and could provide insight and wisdom in the common goal of how to coexist with grizzlies. Doug Peacock has lived with grizzlies and has been charged a couple dozen times and has never been touched by a bear. He alone could help address the myth of ferocity. Not that grizzlies aren't dangerous, but the notion that grizzlies are predatory toward humans and will snatch children out of the yard is one based on fear and lack of education. As you heard from the Glacier National Park bear supervisor, they have millions of visitors a year and have issued 30,000 backcountry permits and have not had one incident. It just shows it's always the humans fault when a bear gets in to trouble. It also shows it is possible to live with grizzlies. All of the above elders hold important wisdom and need to be respected and heard from. And I might add, these voices are from the winning side of the lawsuit against the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly so their opinion matters too. Everyone on both sides should have had the opportunity to present the GBAC. I would recommend delaying any final decisions by the GBAC until you've heard from them.

As always, the elephant in the room is climate change. I don't think I've heard the GBAC even mention it. There needs to be some discussion about grizzlies and an unforeseen climate event. Even though their food resources are now being affected by climate change, we are coming to a tipping point. It is only going to take one climate event to have a spike in grizzly mortality. In the award-winning documentary, Bears of Durango, they told the story of a late spring freeze that killed all the black bear foods which caused a 57% decline in female bears in one year! There have been papers written about this incident. All Montana needs is another berry famine and the same thing could happen here. Climate models predict that extreme weather events are going to be more common. It's not if but when. We need to recognize climate change and its threat to a stable grizzly bear population.

The best available science tells us we are in the sixth mass extinction and that we are in the middle of a climate crisis. Science also tells us our ecosystems are collapsing. The documentary on PBS Nature "The Serengeti Rules" (https://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/the-serengeti-rules-41dfru/20105/) describes how scientists from the 50 and 60's discovered the importance of keystone species for a healthy ecosystem. By recovering the keystone species (bears, wolves, and bison) you can restore the ecosystem. The path forward is healing the entire ecosystem and letting the bears lead the way. It's time to start using the grizzly as a moral compass to do the right thing. We must allow grizzlies to roam.

Grizzlies not only need connectivity but they also need secure core habitat. And most of that is in our national forests. The GBAC needs to recommend that core grizzly bear habitat be protected in the national forests. The roaded areas need to be rehabilitated and more wilderness needs to be preserved. And of course, the Bitterroot Ecosystem needs to be acknowledged as critical to the grizzly's recovery. The "golf course" bear in the Bitterroot was in a golf course inside the Lee Metcalf wildlife refuge. The safest place for a bear

to be in the Bitterroot valley and they freaked out and moved it. And yet after all these years, the Bitterroot National Forest doesn't have a plan. Even after the proposed reintroduction that never happened. What have they been doing all these years? So how can grizzlies ever be delisted when agencies take action like this. And we must not forget the importance of connectivity to the Cabinet, Selkirk, and Yaak grizzlies. It's amazing the Cabinet and Yaak grizzlies are so close and don't intermingle.

The importance of safe passage over roadways cannot be overstated. We need a comprehensive travel plan with safe over and under passes across our roadways. This would provide a ton of jobs and a boost to the economy and make it safe for motorists thus saving lives. If we are ever going to have connectivity, we need these passages. Science tell us female grizzlies don't cross highways and also, they don't just pick up and move to new habitat. They leap frog and it takes a long time. Each new female only gains approximately 20 miles of new habitat. So do the math on how long it will take to get a female grizzly from Yellowstone to the Bitterroots. It's going to take time and tolerance. We need to use the female bears as a gauge as to how connectivity is happening or not happening.

Montana is the last best place. I hope your recommendations can make it an even better place by providing a clear vision for the future of the grizzly. Grizzlies, Native Americans, Ranchers, and the great people of Montana all carry the wisdom of the land. By using this wisdom and working together, we can not only restore a species but at the same time heal an ecosystem.

I again appreciate all the hard work on this and think that you have come up with some solid recommendations. I thank you all for your time.

Chuck Irestone
Missoula, Montana

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Casey johnson

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I strenuously oppose trophy hunting grizzlies. This is not a management plan.

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Cheryl Moody

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please do not open Grizzly bear trophy hunting until the populations across the entire Pacific Northwest have fully recovered.

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 00:08:33
IP Address: 24.16.217.58

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Dane

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I would expect the council to treat Brown Bear as any other North American big game and predator. Once it has reached a stable population I would expect it to be delisted and managed by the department of Fish & Game. Just like the Black Bear, a limit of tags would be issued based on population numbers and density. Hunting is a necessary tool to manage game populations to prevent over population which results in human bear conflict and over predation of both natural prey and livestock. While a majestic icon of North America, the Brown Bear needs to be managed like any other animal utilizing science and data rather than emotions.

COMPLETE

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IP Address: 166.182.80.16

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Tanner Cole

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am not a resident but do have family that lives in Montana and someday would like to have a vacation home there. I believe that grizzlies should be removed from the endangered species list. I also believe that hunting would be an effective tool to control their numbers but also a huge income revenue off the license sales for them. I know given the chance I would rather hunt them there then Alaska. Please keep hunters in mind as you make your decision. We are ambassadors off the outdoors. We love and respect the land more than others.

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Howard Rediske

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

While in Africa, I observed that when an animal was putting humans in danger or destroying property, a hunter was allowed to harvest the animal. However, the taking of that animal was observed by a game warden or biologist. Why can' t we do the same? Harvest a troublesome bear with the supervision of a game warden or biologist Does it really matter who pulls the trigger?
Thanks for you consideration Howard R,

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 00:19:42
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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Locke Mellott

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Dear Griz Council,

Thank you for your hard work on the griz management! Without belaboring the fine print, I trust you have made provision for sportsmen and women to harvest 50-100 bears per year, with Montanan's the first to participate in this management program. We pay the lights all year. I encourage you not to get too bogged down in fine details. Life is fluid and changing and we intiate and respond to in like manner. Focusing on minutiae is counterproductive when something large needs to be accomplished. A carpet needing vacuumed does not need to be assessed before turning on the vacuum on and pushing around. It isn't the last time the floor will need vacuumed either. A crop needing harvested does not need to be analyzed stalk by stalk. Fire up the machine and let 'er eat! Get the grain in the bin, accomplish something big! It doesn't have to be a perfect plan, just get something on the board and go forward. Change and adaptation will be necessary but going forward is paramount. Analysis paralysis is a real phenomenon I've suffered from at different times in my life. I hope you are moving the ball the same way down the court as most of the Montanan's living in grizzly affected areas need you to. You are the voice that we cannot be. Representing the folks who deal with bears daily is your job. You have been appointed for this very time and place. We don't ask the neighbors what they want for dinner when our own kids are hungry. We don't give Missoula input on striping their streets. So I wouldn't sweat comments from the city folks. The country folk don't govern their urban behavior.

At the end of the day, here is what the God of our universe put us in charge of. Genesis 1:26, "And God said, 'Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

All in for King Jesus!!

Locke Mellott

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IP Address:	174.31.230.180

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Michaeli

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Absolutely no hunting of grizzly bears they are endangered and need to remain protected for the ecosystem to recover and flourish . Thank you

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Friday, July 24, 2020 4:37:17 PM
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IP Address: 69.146.145.239

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Anja Heister, PhD

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Dear Council members,

I want to see grizzlies thrive, so no shooting/hunting of any kind, including trophy hunting and no trapping!
Grizzlies need sufficient habitat and habitat connectivity.
Living in the Last Best Place, we need to make this meme come true for bears and other wild animals and treat them with the respect they deserve and we require for our treatment of members of our own species, thus we need more education on non-violent conflict solutions; ranchers need to change their behavior and keep their poor cattle and calves "safe" from predators until they're killed in the slaughterhouse, so I'm asking for special education on non-violent co-existence for the livestock industry wanting to "ranch" cattle on Montana's public lands.
In general, we need to learn that it is not always about us but that nonhuman animals, whether domestic or wild, have rights to pursue liberty, freedom and happiness as well. It is time for a human relationship with other animals that is grounded not in exploitation but in justice and compassion. Thank you for your work.

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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Sara Moffett

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

please do not allow trophy hunting for grizzly bears, they are vital to the eco system.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 25, 2020 11:45:30 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 25, 2020 11:59:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:24
IP Address: 69.146.143.154

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

David

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I've posted comments before about the future of the grizzly bear and what that looks like, and that hunting should be a part/piece of the management of these bears. I'm going to address what that might look like as to how I envision it being.

1. Grizzly bears once delisted are an important part of our landscape and we need to ensure that we continue to have a healthy population of these beautiful animals. To that end, hunting needs to be one of the management tools used to control numbers and problem bears.

2. I could see there being a few very limited allotted each year in a similar fashion to how moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat tags are issued. The tag would be for a specific area and that area only.

3. Grizzly bears will be a ONCE IN A LIFETIME tag in that when a person draws one of these special tags, whether they harvest a bear or not, they will then not be eligible to apply for one of the permits ever again in the state of Montana. Moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats with a few modifications for each of these, they too should be ONCE IN A LIFETIME tags. These special licenses are so few and far between that more folks should have the opportunity to apply, and should not be able to apply again after waiting the 7 year mandatory time before that person can apply again.

4. The Once In a Lifetime equation does not apply to the very successful SUPER TAG chances that Montana allows people to apply for each year. This program is a huge success and the dollars earned from this is a tremendous asset to the specific species the Super Tag chance was purchased. The dollars this brings in is used specifically in programs for each of the animals that the Super Tag is for. There is ONE Super Tag issued for moose, sheep, mountain goat, mountain lion, elk, mule deer, and antelope in Montana. This practice should also be applied to grizzly bears when the

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IP Address: 79.70.183.82

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Annemarie Cavell

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Why do you bother with predators? when all you care about is whether cows survive, you have a perverted love for ranchers and cows ,think of the money you've wasted keeping predators alive , when you obviously couldn't give a damn about them, I live in Northern England, I will never visit the USA ,multiply the rest of the tourists in the world who will never want to visit , because of your violent psychotic obsession with killing predators which branches off into you being allowed to eat cows s,or pigs but nothing else being allowed to.

COMPLETE

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Time Spent:	00:20:10
IP Address:	69.146.143.154

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

David

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I just accidentally cut myself off. Comments I made up to this point should be available to be attached with these statements.

4. Sorry but I accidentally hit submit. I will try and continue roughly from where I left off. I was talking about the Super Tag chances that are allotted each year in Montana for the various species and how beneficial that program has been as it goes towards that particular individual species for things such as habit, habitat improvement, studies and tracking measures, etc.

5. Periodically there will be times that a particular bear may become a very real threat to people in particular and also towards property such as repeat attacks on livestock. Often the FWP has to spend a lot of money having to deal with this situation. This is an area in which hunters can also be used effectively.

If there is a bear in a particular area that has been determined by FWP to be an animal that needs to be killed, the hunter or hunters who might be selected to target this Specific Animal, might have their name drawn from the list of applicants who applied for and drew the grizzly bear license in that district. If the hunter kills this animal, that person will have met the Once In A Lifetime criteria and will not be eligible to apply again.

To insure that the correct animal is targeted, one person from FWP may be allowed to assist the hunter in location and harvesting this Specific Animal.

6. The meat for a harvested grizzly bear must be properly cared for just as it is for the black bear, and must be taken care of and removed from the field for consumption. I have eaten grizzly bear meat myself and can attest to the fact that it is excellent eating and tastes very similar to black bear meat. Hunters can be fined or charged just like they are on our other big game species.

7. Within 24 hours of harvesting a grizzly bear, FWP must be notified and the head and hide of that animal examined just the way that black bears are done.

These bears should be managed properly so that we will always have them in healthy numbers in Montana. Hunting should be one of the management tools used in this endeavor. Hunting will be closely regulated just as it is done for other big-game species in Montana. Common sense and science should dictate how many and for what locals that grizzly bear licenses are issued just as it is for our other big-game species. It needs to be based on science and not sentiment. Hunting is a tool used to manage other wildlife across our state and country. Hunting and sportsmen are the ones who pay for the Fish and Game agencies to keep our wildlife numbers healthy. Taxes on sporting equipment and ammunition is another HUGE amount of support that for not us having taxed ourselves with the Pitman-Robertson act and other measures, we would not have the abundant and healthy numbers of wildlife in our country.

Thank you for your time on this very important subject.

David

COMPLETE

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IP Address: 107.77.201.17

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Brian

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Allow limited season and take! These bears have ZERO fear of humans for the most part and co-existing means CO-EXISTING not giving the bears everything and prosecuting humans for defending themselves

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Sunday, July 26, 2020 7:18:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:31
IP Address: 73.95.153.211

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Charles Seymour

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Thank you for promoting population connectivity among the fragmented grizzly population in Montana. Conflict prevention should be the key theme. Hunting of bears has no scientific, ethical, moral or financial value to the state. Bears are worth far more alive than dead, and they benefit the ecosystem overall. Tourists spend significant money for the chance to see bears and Montana has the opportunity to choose to be a leader in non-consumptive tourism opportunities that provide great jobs for people in the smaller communities of the state.

COMPLETE

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Time Spent:	00:01:10
IP Address:	108.206.9.251

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

steve johnson

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Do whats right

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified:	Sunday, July 26, 2020 9:57:31 AM
Time Spent:	00:01:33
IP Address:	63.153.109.56

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Their numbers need reduced ; we need a hunting season.

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Sunday, July 26, 2020 4:19:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:54
IP Address: 96.19.18.192

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

John Mulligan

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please, please, please make your regulatory recommendations based on FWP game biologist's science. They are the educated folks charged with conservative game management.
Please, please, please avoid caving to emotional arguments contrary to the biologists recommendations.
Thanks you!!

COMPLETE

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IP Address:	65.219.130.12

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

P Mackinder

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please do not hunt the grizzly bears. They face an uncertain future with climate change and too many of them bet killed on roads and mistakes during hunting season. We should protect and help this species --- remember Montana's motto --"The Last Best Place".

COMPLETE

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IP Address: 174.204.39.214

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Lee

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I think that it would be very wise of our state to implement a hunting season for grizzly bears here in MT. The number of bears in the state has grown to a point that they are not endangered at all and a hunting season would be an appropriate means of managing those numbers as well as providing revenue for the state.

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, July 27, 2020 2:41:51 PM
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Q1

Name (optional):

Jeff Darrah

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I was a Montana Game Warden for nearly 30 years and applied to be on this committee as a private citizen that also hunts almost exclusively in the front range along side of Grizzly Bears, I have investigated poachings of bears, trapped and relocated bears, helped develop policies considering bears and even investigated a Grizzly Bear fatality on a human. I guess my experiences with Grizzly Bears was not diverse enough to be considered as a participant in this discussion. I have participated in IGBC Meetings and took part in a discussion/working group with FWP regarding the increased cost to Wildlife Services in the management of Grizzly Bear Depredations. I take offense to the fact that "Hunting" was not discussed and agreed upon as an appropriate tool to help manage the future of the Grizzly Bear. Sportsmen are seeming to lose their seat at the table on many wildlife issues, because of this huge desire to have a "Diverse Process" as to get buy in on any decision that is reached by all stakeholders. Well as a Montana Hunter I do not have buy in on many of these recommendations. It was predictable that this would be the outcome regarding hunting as a management tool considering the makeup of the group and how the group was selected. The bottom line is that processes like these are driving sportsmen away from FWP and their decisions and how they are made. It does seem that science is not being used as much as personal beliefs and feelings regarding the delisting and hunting of Grizzly Bears. This is why many of us feel that the ESA is broken and it needs to be fixed.

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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Jodi Hilty

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, I would echo the words of Jessie Grossman from her opinion piece in the Missoulian. To summarize them, please provide more funding, resources and tools to help these bear management specialists succeed as they provide an important resources to our communities to coexist successfully with grizzly bears. thank you!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 9:02:50 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 9:08:26 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:36
IP Address: 208.94.197.179

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

C. Simmons

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

The Montana population of grizzly bears is very important for trans-boundary population viability. SW Alberta shares the Montana population, and this population is considered stable because of the protection afforded in large tracts of protected habitat for grizzly bears in Montana. Keep up the great work for grizzly bears - we are very appreciative of this effort on the Canadian side and are working hard on this side to ensure large landscape connectivity and secure habitat for this iconic species.

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 9:48:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:40:55
IP Address: 73.78.108.79

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Sheri Pennington

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Thank you for your time serving on the Grizzly Bear Advisory Council. I think there are good recommendations in the July 17, 2020 document. I feel that additional recommendations are needed. Both genetic connectivity and demographic connectivity are important. Female bears need to find linkages between recovery areas. I believe this is a major component of full recovery. Conflict prevention also needs to be a priority in the linkage areas so that grizzly bears can recover in areas that currently haven none.

I hope the Council can decide to specifically recommend against a grizzly hunt. We need to take into account Indigenous Tribes wishes to not initiate hunting of grizzly bears. I appreciate the Council's acknowledgment of the importance of respecting the Tribes' point of view. Also since there is no evidence that hunting increases the social tolerance of grizzly bears, conflict prevention strategies and education can be key to a successful program.

I would like to ask that the Council not make a recommendation for initiating a trophy hunt. Tribal and national opposition as well as the fact that hunting does not reduce conflicts or increase public acceptance should be considered in your decision.

Thanks for your time and consideration of my concerns and suggestions.

Sheri Pennington

100

COMPLETE

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Last Modified:	Tuesday, July 28, 2020 10:00:21 AM
Time Spent:	00:01:48
IP Address:	50.101.229.7

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Lynn

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

More funding and resources and tools to help these bear management specialists succeed is an important resource to our communities.

101

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 9:18:08 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:33:09 PM
Time Spent: 03:15:00
IP Address: 24.64.127.95

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

More funding, resources and tools are needed to help these bear management specialists succeed as important resources to our communities. Grizzlies deserve a team that is backed with ample monetary support.

102

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, July 29, 2020 8:44:00 AM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, July 29, 2020 8:49:18 AM
Time Spent:	00:05:18
IP Address:	184.166.43.140

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Sydney Nicholas

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Grizzly bears are an American icon that need room to live and prosper. Humans are the invasive, aggressive species here. You need to come up with a plan that doesn't minimize their population in any way possible. Please focus on education. People who live in bear country need to be educated on how to minimize bear encounters and what to do when a bear is near. I hear many locals talk about how they have illegally killed a bear for sniffing around their property with zero repercussions. That's unacceptable. The grizzly population is significantly smaller then it was a hundred years ago. Thats because of constant human demonization, illegal killing, and hunting. I truly hope you use your power for good. The American people want to protect bears. I know you hear us. Now make us proud.

103

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 4:18:16 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 4:27:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:12
IP Address: 208.75.143.26

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Joe

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

You already know this: Hunting is conservation. We are over populated with Griz. It is time for a tag. They need to be shot at to learn fear of humans. (just like the black bears have). They need to be managed with biology and hunting, not emotional politics from environmental extremists and others. Please proceed with a managed hunting season and focus on the needs of Montana residents.

104

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 6:15:36 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 6:20:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:25
IP Address: 96.237.233.60

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

The hunting of grizzly bears is inappropriate because it will not prevent conflicts, will set back recovery of the species, and it is unacceptable to a majority of Americans, including myself. Grizzly bears have a right to roam freely in the state of Montana. Save our grizzly bears please, thank you for your consideration on this matter.

105

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Thursday, July 30, 2020 9:53:41 AM
Last Modified:	Thursday, July 30, 2020 9:56:10 AM
Time Spent:	00:02:28
IP Address:	52.129.120.142

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I hope the Council is considering using hunting as one management option to deal with the abundance of grizzly bears that some parts of the state are dealing with.

106

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 30, 2020 12:30:43 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 30, 2020 12:35:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:49
IP Address: 174.254.197.50

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Ian Farnes

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Our planet is becoming more and more populated. Our modern culture values time in the wilderness more than in any other time period.

Bear attacks will continue to rise in frequency. Livestock needed to feed that population will be lost. Humans will die. Elk and moose calves are be coming more and more rare.

There has to be a point where numbers and science rule over emotions. You have met your goals for the grizzly population. It is past time to allow a limited, heavy regulated hunt. Perhaps if you do it intelligently, it can aid in some of the financial burdens you face.

Bears are not the only animals that need protection.

107

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, July 30, 2020 12:54:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:57
IP Address: 174.204.6.17

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

John F

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Grizzly attacks will increase as the population is moved into more inhabited areas. More cattle losses, more pet losses, more human encounters... There needs to be a managed max number in regions. If other states refuse the bears, will still need to manage the population in Montana. Hunting has worked well for all other population management, and would work for bears.

108

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Thursday, July 30, 2020 3:08:03 PM
Last Modified:	Thursday, July 30, 2020 3:18:30 PM
Time Spent:	00:10:26
IP Address:	66.109.135.158

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Dr. Kari Gunderson

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I do not support delisting of the grizzly bear. Instead I want to see farmers and ranches adhere to more strict practices to reduce bear attractants like bone yards and regularly use practices like electric fencing and guard dogs. Bears lived on the plains long before people did and so people should try harder to live with bears. I grew up on a farm near Power, MT so I am fully aware of the anti-bear/predator mentality on the east side of the Continental Divide.

I do not support "more strict management" outside of delineated connectivity areas (which have not been delineated by either USFS or FWP).

A grizzly moving east from the east front is apparently not moving toward an established sub-population ; e.g., GYC. Who knows, some grizzly may some day get as far east as the CM Russell wildlife refuge.

We can't be absolutely sure that we can predict where a moving bear will end up. For example, a grizzly moving east from the east front might swim the Missouri River 30 miles or so downstream from Great Falls, and then to the Highwood Mountains, where the bear shows up by seeing lunch when it saw a chicken in a human back yard, up close to the Highwoods, on some plot subdivided and sold off in pieces since, say, the 1990s or since the 1980s, as compared to the 1940s or 1950s.

Or, who knows, maybe that bear could be one that moves from the Highwoods to the Little Belts, just one day's lope to the south, putting it on course toward CYC.

I hope GBAC won't get unnecessarily strict too soon with these bears. They and we need some time to work things out, including indispensable local volunteers, and equally indispensable staff time devoted full time to conflict prevention and public acceptance. It can't be done with the flick of a switch. Monitor. Post a progress report in six months, then again six months later.

GBAC gives a nod to climate's role. I hope it will give explicit attention to risking risk of drought, and the pressures that drought forces on the bears, settled in, or on the move.

I do not support a hunting season on grizzly bears. When some hunters pack semi-automatic machine guns in the name of hunting, this in unacceptable and unethical. It is premature. If grizzly bear hunters really want to get a thrill they can go up to Alaska and now legally shoot bears out of airplanes and in their dens. How "fair chase" is that?

Thank you for your consideration.

109

COMPLETE

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Last Modified:	Thursday, July 30, 2020 8:43:53 PM
Time Spent:	02:31:11
IP Address:	98.125.91.245

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Stephen Roth

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Consolidated Draft Recommendations Comment

I have followed the GBAC since the start, attending several meetings and participating virtually thru live streams. I fully recognize the complexity and the overwhelming amount of information the council received during this process. After reviewing the draft, actually several times I believe the council has set forth a viable and responsible plan that if implemented according to the recommendations and guidelines will serve Montanan's and those visiting our state well, but far more important maintain a viable Grizzly Bear population for the foreseeable future. This is not to say that there won't be bumps along the way and actually the results should be a living document for generations to shape as new issues arise. I'm particularly pleased that much of the focus in the document strongly advocates for education, outreach and conflict prevention. This not to down play the importance from a biological and management standpoint how the landscape, public and private plays a major role in securing connectivity zones and maintianing viable recovery zones.
As noted in the document the contentious issue as it relates to hunting the Grizzly Bear. For the record I am a life long hunter and support and believe in the North American Model of wildlife management. However, establishing a hunting season for Grizzly Bear's in relevant states including Montana amounts to a trophy hunt for which I don't support for any such species, no different for an African Lion or Elephant. I do support indigenous people on their lands to honor any traditional values regarding the Grizzly Bear, even if hunting the bear is desired. The idea of a governor's Grizzly tag to sell or developing a super tag including a Grizzly tag is exactly what a trophy hunt is and I believe would not be well received by those who adamantly oppose hunting Grizzly Bear's. It might well end up in the courts who will make the final decision. I would support a hunt in certain Hunting Districts if a scientific management need arises to reduce a particular bear population in that HD, with no fan fare, low key. I believe those opposed to hunting Grizzly Bear's would support FWP based on sound management.

Final Thoughts

I have three main fears.

1. All the work completed by the GBAC in drafting this document will end up on a shelf collecting dust.
2. That USFWS will delist Grizzly Bears and FWP will not be able to secure the needed funding to hire adequate staffing or resources to implement the GBAC guidelines and recommendations.
3. That politics will get increasingly involved and influence or overrule FWP/GBAC scientific based recommends and decisions concerning Grizzly Bear's.

Thanks to all who made this process possible during extraordinarily trying times and the council members for engaging in a truly worthy endeavor.

Thanks again.

110

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 8:37:59 AM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 8:41:40 AM
Time Spent:	00:03:41
IP Address:	71.237.29.135

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Chris Moore

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

1. Guiding principle 9 suggests that grizzly bears east of the Rocky Mountain Front or north of I-90 do not contribute to connectivity of the four recovery zones and therefore will need “special attention” to be clearly articulated in a MTFWP grizzly management plan. This sets up the expectation that grizzlies are not necessary in these areas and therefore are expendable there despite many of these areas being critical for linkage between the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) and the Yellowstone Ecosystem populations.
It is inappropriate for the Council to recommend that MTFWP establish new “lines” or zones where grizzly bears are deemed unimportant/disposable and where their relocation or removal would be prioritized.

2. Last-minute proposed recommendations imply there should be zones or areas of Montana where grizzly bears are disposable and inappropriate.
Recommendation 30 would charge FWP and “relevant entities” to identify areas that are not “critical to the long-term vitality of grizzly bears.” It is unclear what exactly this means: What is “long-term vitality” and how is that defined? What criteria would be used to judge what bears are unimportant? This recommendation should be withdrawn, as should Recommendations 28 and 29.

3. The council agrees that conflicts with grizzlies cannot be mitigated through hunting. Yet, in the current draft recommendations, language states, “[W]e encourage the take of bears where the desired outcome is a lower bear density, recognizing that it will not mean no bears in those areas, but where the management challenges are significant.”
If “management challenges” mainly include conflicts and the Council acknowledges that conflicts cannot be prevented or reduced through hunting, then why does language exist in the recommendations that suggest hunting will reduce "management challenges?" The recommendations state, "Grizzly bears outside established recovery and connectivity zones should be managed more strictly than those inside the zones." This is unnecessary if conflict prevention, education, and preparing people to coexist with grizzlies is a priority statewide.

4. The lack of analysis of the nearly 17,000 public comments that have been sent to the Council.
Decisions and recommendations made by the Council have all been made without a systematic review of the comments sent to the Council.
A survey of public attitudes toward grizzlies in Montana conducted by U of Montana researchers and commissioned by MTFWP has yet to be analyzed and results haven’t been released. How can the Council truly be representing the public if they haven’t even been given a summary of the results of the public comments? The only summary they have been provided was of the first 600 comments. The Council has discussed many topics since then with many weighing in on specific issues.

These are the more harmful recommendations that are present in the current draft. The council will be meeting again to refine and complete the recommendations but this is the last chance you have to provide input. Please advocate for the removal of guiding principle 9 and recommendations 28-30, also ask that this Council recommend against a grizzly bear trophy hunt.

111

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 10:17:50 AM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 10:22:16 AM
Time Spent:	00:04:25
IP Address:	208.83.43.138

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Amanda cooper

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Montana's grizzly bear population has not fully recovered and now more than ever they have more threats to their survival. Due to ongoing threats such as the loss of key food sources, the grizzly bear population is already in jeopardy even without an official hunt in place. Since 2015, nearly 300 grizzly bears from the Yellowstone population alone have been killed by humans; these deaths may harm their population and its ability to recover, and trophy hunting would exacerbate this problem.
I oppose grizzly bear hunting and urge you to recommend against it while supporting continued conservation efforts.

112

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 10:38:28 AM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 10:40:58 AM
Time Spent:	00:02:30
IP Address:	69.146.14.247

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Norma Roberts

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am opposed to the hunting of grizzly bears and ask that you please do not go forward with a hunting season. These bears are iconic and we can learn to live with them. Thanks.

113

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 10:51:10 AM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 10:51:54 AM
Time Spent:	00:00:43
IP Address:	47.44.115.130

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Sheila Fauth

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please protect the Grizzlies before there are none.

114

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 10:56:02 AM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 11:08:40 AM
Time Spent:	00:12:37
IP Address:	174.198.162.214

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

silvertip

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

By deleting paragraph 15(b) “Livestock Loss Board and relevant agricultural organizations should research and establish best management best management practices.”, you are condoning “shoot, shovel and shutup”, among other nefarious activities. This should be reinstated, with felonious prosecutions upon discovery, without a statute of limitations exemption upon discovery. This is a worst management practices activity.

115

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 11:10:16 AM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 11:12:47 AM
Time Spent:	00:02:30
IP Address:	184.166.169.166

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Cheryl and Larry Grogan

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I detest any form of trophy hunting. I am a Montana resident and respect the grizzlies that inhabit our forests…Please stop people from killing these majestic bears to put a vile head on the wall or rug on the floor. This is their habitat and we continue to encroach and disturb.

116

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 11:11:58 AM
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Time Spent:	00:03:39
IP Address:	63.153.21.40

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Richard Waide

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please stop the senseless killings of Grizzly Bears for sport or any other reason. Grizzly's are God's creatures, just like humans, and they should be respected as such. Let Grizzly Bears enjoy the world they have been born into, and help protect them from needless killings so they can enjoy their families throughout their lives.

117

COMPLETE

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Time Spent:	00:00:45
IP Address:	84.17.41.151

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

We are moving in on their habitat .

118

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 12:17:21 PM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 12:19:21 PM
Time Spent:	00:02:00
IP Address:	173.179.202.203

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Valerie C.

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Good day,
Please do not allow hunting into the Yellowstone Park. Grizzly bears have to recover from all the destruction they had to face lately.
Hunting should not happen into the Yellowstone Park.
Thank you for your consideration.
Valerie C.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 31, 2020 12:27:33 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 31, 2020 12:29:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:35
IP Address: 161.7.120.247

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Jeannette Vieg

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please, these majestic animals are being pushed to the other limits of their known range. Killing them over land dispute seems like the wrong thing to do. Remember, whose land is it? Theirs is the answer, leave them

#120

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 10:57:02 AM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 12:47:46 PM
Time Spent:	01:50:43
IP Address:	216.47.57.160

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please don't consider or allow trophy hunting of grizzly bears in Montana. Our wild spaces are a huge tourist attraction and without them it brings down Montana's attraction. In addition, if we don't protect all aspects of our ecosystem we really don't know the long term damage left to our children.

#121

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 12:56:56 PM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 12:57:28 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:31
IP Address:	24.114.37.172

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Tammy Fenske

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Leave the bears alone!

#122

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 1:09:20 PM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 1:10:28 PM
Time Spent:	00:01:08
IP Address:	216.146.109.179

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please don’t kill our grizzly bears! They are part of what makes Montana so special!

#123

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 1:37:08 PM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 1:41:01 PM
Time Spent:	00:03:52
IP Address:	184.167.150.176

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Rebecca Sanne

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Montana's grizzly bear population has not fully recovered despite more than 40 years of tax-funded conservation efforts. Due to ongoing threats such as the loss of key food sources, the grizzly bear population is already in jeopardy even without an official hunt in place. Since 2015, nearly 300 grizzly bears from the Yellowstone population alone have been killed by humans; these deaths may harm their population and its ability to recover, and trophy hunting would exacerbate this problem. Please protect the grizzlies. Treat them, treat all life, as you would have life treat you.

#124

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 3:02:44 PM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 3:28:41 PM
Time Spent:	00:25:56
IP Address:	63.153.87.239

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Derek

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Dear Advisory Committee Members,
Thank you for your hard work on behalf of grizzly bears and the people of Montana. In addition to my previous comments, I have just a few comments focusing on the RED TEXT wording in the July 24 draft document:

Guiding Principle #9 – It is incorrect to state that bears migrating east of the Rocky Mountain Front and north of I-90 “do not contribute to connectivity of recovery zones.” Some do. In fact, the NCDE Conservation Strategy that guides grizzly bear conservation and management includes the Big Belt and Bridger mountain ranges as part of Zone 2, and it states, “public lands in Zone 2 will be managed to provide the opportunity for grizzly bears to move between the NCDE and adjacent ecosystems…” (NCDE p. 31-32). Please see the map of the NCDE Zones.

Since FWP has already endorsed (and helped draft) the NCDE Conservation Strategy, I would encourage the Committee NOT to adopt any language that contradicts the Strategy, as it sends confusing direction to the Department and the public as to how FWP intends to manage bears in that area. Furthermore, any intent by the State of Montana that is incongruous with the Conservation Strategy may render a future NCDE delisting rule unlawful. I would reword that principle as follows:

“The council supports and understands that as expansion of grizzly bears occur east of the Rocky Mountain Front, FWP’s bear management plan and activities should follow objectives for connectivity and conflict as articulated in the NCDE Conservation Strategy, and in a way that supports the goals of the Strategy.”

Guiding Principle #15 -- it isn’t necessarily the case that “there are parts of Montana that are unprepared for the presence of grizzly bears and will remain so as resources are prioritized within existing recovery zones and the landscapes in between.” In fact, FWP has shown that it will seek additional funding to bring on more bear resources and specialists when grizzly bears expand to new areas, as have conservation groups. Furthermore, black bears are everywhere already in Montana, and many of the ways communities prepare for the presence of black bears (e.g. food storage) are the same measures that are already in place to prevent grizzly bear conflict. Finally, the committee has already included multiple calls for more funding to prevent and address conflict, so it is unclear why this guiding principle seems to assume that funding levels are static.

Resources – D -- I support the recommendation for full funding for Livestock Loss program.

Thank you. Derek Goldman.

#125

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 3:51:36 PM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 3:53:51 PM
Time Spent:	00:02:14
IP Address:	63.153.65.0

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Keith Kubista

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

A final comment as you hone and finalize your Final Report recommendations.
You correctly recognized that significant agricultural and other livelihood-based land uses exist on private property within all areas between grizzly bear recovery zones and in connectivity zones.
I see pronouncements in the DRAFT Recommendations that essentially says ready or not grizzlies are here and more are on the way, with privileged guidance and statements for the bears¬¬¬ recovery.
What I don’t see in the DRAFT Recommendations is any pronouncements for protection of private property.
For the well-being of Montana landowners and their backing it is likewise important to include declarations affirming protection for private property and rights alongside the bears protective measures.
I suggest adding new item 32 on page 7 under Grizzly Bear Distribution, Relocation, and Connectivity that says:
Recommendations in this Final Report shall not create diminution of private property or private rights.
Keith Kubista
Stevensville, MT

#126

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 4:08:13 PM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 4:14:39 PM
Time Spent:	00:06:25
IP Address:	76.21.109.184

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Glenn Graham

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I was able to watch the April 9 meeting, with Ken McDonald, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Garth Mowat, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Larry Van Daele, Alaska Board of Game. What was most striking is that none of them would provide a good reason for hunting grizzly bears. All the justifications provided by the pro-hunters like they would "teach" the bears to be fearful, were incorrect.

The majority of Americans want grizzly bears to continue to be protected. Montana generates a lot of money from people who want to see grizzly bears. The small minority who want the bears to be hunted have to recognize the greater good, which is that these animals have a right to live in their home.

#127

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 6:03:35 PM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 6:04:11 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:36
IP Address:	216.47.61.233

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Cathy Reich

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I strongly oppose grizzly bear hunting and urge you to recommend against it while supporting continued conservation efforts.

#128

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 6:20:14 PM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 6:20:58 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:44
IP Address:	99.203.55.233

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Tabitha Totten

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

End all bear hunting and support wildlife

#129

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 31, 2020 8:37:56 PM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 31, 2020 8:38:20 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:23
IP Address:	69.145.216.218

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please save the Grizzlies before we have none.

#130

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 31, 2020 10:28:03 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 31, 2020 10:33:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:05
IP Address: 97.121.200.183

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Dave & Diane Pauli

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Thank you for your work on this issue. Some good ideas and protocols are going to result from your efforts.

But Diane and I (Dave) strongly oppose the (trophy) hunting of bears as part of the recovery process. No species should jump directly from a protected list to a trophy hit list. We believer there should always be at least a ten year buffer period between delisting a species and allowing it to become a hunted species. This would allow time for exisiting research to be completed and for the animals to adjust to more human traffic pressure.

And Griz are another species negatively impacted by climate change and this is not a good time to expose the animals to trophy hunting.

#131

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, August 01, 2020 5:23:42 AM
Last Modified:	Saturday, August 01, 2020 5:24:31 AM
Time Spent:	00:00:49
IP Address:	90.217.115.42

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Mark Bould

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Save Grizzly bears

#132

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, August 01, 2020 5:25:07 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, August 01, 2020 5:49:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:24:12
IP Address: 174.204.2.128

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Gina E.

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Dear Governor’s Grizzly Bear Advisory Council,
Being a Born and a Raised Montanan & understanding how fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful place, I oppose trophy hunting of the grizzly bear. A most magnificent animal!
Those that trophy hunt along with those that allow such a horrible action are disgusting “ COWARDS” .
The Grizzly was here long before any of them or us.
Keep up your efforts to do what’s right to protect them. Educate the public like you have done in the past. Work with land owners& if a problem Grizzly is part of the problem a human is usually the other part. As you know. Unfortunately we have some people who like to cause trouble for this population & these people are the ones who are detrimental to this most amazing bear.
Thank You,
Gina

#133

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, August 01, 2020 8:57:48 AM
Last Modified:	Saturday, August 01, 2020 9:05:52 AM
Time Spent:	00:08:03
IP Address:	184.166.51.43

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Richard DeGroot

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Grizzly Bears should, and must, remain on the Endangered Species List. This majestic animal is the symbol of our American Wilderness. Their future is threatened on so many fronts - hunting, poaching, road kill, subdivisions, to name a few. We must do all we can to expand their numbers, expand their range.

#134

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, August 01, 2020 10:58:44 AM
Last Modified:	Saturday, August 01, 2020 11:03:43 AM
Time Spent:	00:04:58
IP Address:	172.221.105.107

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I support the expansion of the grizzly bear in Montana, and I do not believe that the presence of grizzly bears should be limited to certain areas. I support the education of people regarding the education of people regarding grizzly bears.

#135

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, August 01, 2020 2:54:42 PM
Last Modified:	Saturday, August 01, 2020 2:56:35 PM
Time Spent:	00:01:52
IP Address:	174.45.40.128

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Penny Friend

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I oppose the trophy hunting of grizzly bears.

Montana's grizzly bear population has not fully recovered despite more than 40 years of tax-funded conservation efforts. Due to ongoing threats such as the loss of key food sources, the grizzly bear population is already in jeopardy even without an official hunt in place. Since 2015, nearly 300 grizzly bears from the Yellowstone population alone have been killed by humans; these deaths may harm their population and its ability to recover, and trophy hunting would exacerbate this problem.

#136

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, August 01, 2020 5:07:47 PM
Last Modified:	Saturday, August 01, 2020 5:11:51 PM
Time Spent:	00:04:04
IP Address:	98.127.123.51

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Sandra McCormick

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I strongly oppose hunting grizzly bears. Do not fool yourself; these bears are always threatened by habitat loss, lack of food sources, poaching, and highway causualties.
Please find ways to ensure their safety

#137

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, August 01, 2020 5:14:50 PM
Last Modified:	Saturday, August 01, 2020 5:15:17 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:27
IP Address:	205.149.11.1

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I strongly oppose grizzly bear hunting and urge you to recommend against it while supporting continued conservation efforts.

#138

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, August 01, 2020 6:01:51 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, August 01, 2020 6:13:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:47
IP Address: 174.254.193.204

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

To the GGBAC:

The grizzly bear is an essential part of our ecosystem & they are already endangered. Allow trophy hunting? Please don't! For the sake of our society, environment, and wildlife. As a species, humans can be wasteful, cruel, inhumane, and greedy...surely trophy hunting doesn't bring in that much money to the economy. Other endangered species have been wiped out because of greed, lack of common sense, wisdom, and foresight. Please do the right thing and nurture our endangered species, grizzly bears among them, for the benefit of the environment and future generations. Thank you for your time.

#139

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, August 01, 2020 9:07:40 PM
Last Modified:	Saturday, August 01, 2020 9:15:55 PM
Time Spent:	00:08:14
IP Address:	174.237.138.226

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Rod McClanahan

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am an active hunter, and have been for the last 60 years. However, I do not think that the grizzly bear population has achieved the point where legal hunting can resume. I think hunting should only be considered if no other areas are available to relocate bears, and if population objectives have been met fully. Enough bears are being killed from depredation, and human self defense. I would love to see populations established in other suitable areas in the West. Livestock permitees have too much influence in the formulation of biological decisions. Public lands in MT are owned by everyone-not just livestock ranchers. Bears, bison, and wolves over cattle.

#140

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, August 02, 2020 8:16:22 AM
Last Modified:	Sunday, August 02, 2020 8:22:04 AM
Time Spent:	00:05:42
IP Address:	107.77.210.37

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Lawrence Drummond

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

The grizzlies should be managed to avoid conflicts e/ humans and should be allowed to stray eastward, and not hunted. We are intelligent enough to provide electric fencing etc to have a mutually beneficial relationship w/ these animals. Connectivity is essential for their survival, not hunting. Thank you very much.

#141

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, August 02, 2020 12:24:57 PM
Last Modified:	Sunday, August 02, 2020 1:06:03 PM
Time Spent:	00:41:06
IP Address:	174.45.92.116

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Q1

Name (optional):

Sharon Sutherland`

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I appreciate the work the council has done on grizzly bear management, as well as the opportunity to comment on the draft recommendations.
I have been a resident of MT for 34 years, and I feel fortunate to live in a state where these magnificent animals still thrive. I love grizzly bears, and make 1/2 dozen trips to Yellowstone and Glacier annually (pre-virus!) to view them, supporting the local economies. I have friends who come up every year from out-of-state to see grizzlies. I have hiked in the wilderness the entire 34 years and have never felt threatened by grizzlies, even though I have come into close contact with several in Glacier. I ALWAYS carry bear spray, and know how to use it. I hate seeing people hiking with guns and no bear spray.
I would like to commend some of the committee's recommendations: for recognizing the importance of grizzlies to the tribal nations; for realizing the need to increase education and public outreach about grizzlies; for new ideas for funding; and for understanding the importance of non-conflict methods of coexisting with bears.
I have several problems with certain recommendations however, primarily the creation of new areas where grizzlies are considered less important and dealt with in a "stricter manner". Guiding principle 9 suggest that bears east of the Rocky Mtn Front do not contribute to the connectivity of populations, and therefore could be deemed unimportant/disposable. It is inappropriate for the Council to suggest new zones where their removal could be prioritized. I believe Principle 9 as well as Recommendations 28-30, which suggest the FWP identify areas "not critical to the long-term vitality of grizzly bears", should be withdrawn. I also think to prioritize giving resources to certain communities, such as the Eastern Front of the Northern Rockies, should not be done, but the resources given where they are most needed.
Even though the council has said that conflicts with grizzlies cannot be mitigated through hunting, they have failed to recommend against a trophy hunt, and they should. I don't believe grizzlies should ever be hunted. Their reproduction rate is too low, and the number of bears that are killed every year by management actions and conflicts with people is so ridiculously high that a hunt would seriously put the population in peril. A hunt would also give the State of MT a HUGE black eye, and bring in very little money from license fees compared to what would probably be lost in a boycott of the state.
I also wonder why the council hasn't analysed the 17,000 comments that were submitted before making their recommendations? Or why the survey of public attitudes toward grizzlies hasn't been analysed and released? I am the only person I know who received and completed that survey, and I am extremely curious to know the results. How can the council represent the public if you haven't reviewed what they recommend?
I would also suggest including in the recommendations a requirement that all ungulate hunters carry bear spray, and all hikers in Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks.
Thank you for your work and the opportunity to comment.

#142

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, August 02, 2020 1:01:00 PM
Last Modified:	Sunday, August 02, 2020 1:16:12 PM
Time Spent:	00:15:12
IP Address:	174.45.83.3

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Thank you for taking my comments
I do criticize the council's recommendation to deal harshly with grizzlies that expand eastward.

"We should view the grizzly bear population in Montana as important as a whole and view bears as having intrinsic value as individuals, as the document currently recognizes," said Zach Strong of Natural Resources Defense Council. "And I think the emphasis should be on preventing conflicts."
Below is a map of habitat suitability with grizzly bear observations. You can see the Northern Rockies grizzly population becomes noticeably less south of the Chouteau area. Suitable habitat appears to follow river drainages/riparian areas, most notable is probably the Teton River. This takes them back to their native habitat, the plains. Before grizzlies were pushed into the mountains, they were on plains and this is noted in the journals of Lewis and Clark of 1805. Their journals cite numerous accounts.

The upcoming management plan needs to focus on what areas will probably have the greatest grizzly/human/livestock/property security needs and then form a management plan to address the needs. Below are some that I feel will make a difference, now a plan. I am troubled by the amount of tension. A management plan should lessen the tension and increase tolerance.

Birdfeeders
Not allowed at any time.
Fruit Trees and Berry Bushes

Remove fruit from the ground or remove all fruit before it ripens and remove all fruit trees and berry bushes in heavy-use human areas, particularly plants near entrance-ways, children’s play areas

Garden
Electric fence gardens.
Compost
Use electric-. Compost only yard waste outdoors (e.g. cut grass, leaves).
Pet food/livestock feed
keep pet/livestock food securely indoors or in bear-proof containers.
Barbecues
store bbq securely inside (without propane tank as it is fire risk).
Livestock
electric-fence livestock and use guardian animals for additional protection. Take small livestock in at night. Locate calving grounds away from forested areas. Remove carcasses from property and bury in a remote spot at least 8-10 ft.
Beehives

Don’t place beehives in prime bear habitat, like a berry patch or riparian zone. Don’t set up when other bear foods are not yet abundant. and electric fence beehives.

Protecting property
Keep all accessible doors and windows closed and locked when not home. Do not store food of any kind outside, even if it is in a locked refrigerator or freezer. Don’t leave trash, groceries, animal feed, coolers or any odorous item in your vehicle or in the back of a pick-up truck, even In addition to good practices, keep lawn mowed and weeded. Play radio when not home.
Bear Management
Implement hazing program to deter bears from high-use human areas non-lethally, apply aversive conditioning techniques to the most valuable animals in the population (e.g. threatened species, reproductive-aged females, ‘alpha’ males) that are involved in conflict

situations, use noise and physical deterrents whenever their behavior is considered undesirable or inappropriate.
Bear Management Program by the State
Develop a program that will go to the affected communities, provide funding for electric fencing for example and when a problem bear is reported, the property should be visited and inspected for compliance with state standards for living in bear habitat.

An example of a grizzly/human situation in Chouteau on August 1st.

- The grizzly has come to my house a couple of different times. We would haze him away from our house with our truck,"
- "He has been real close. He was ready to jump over into the corrals where the pigs are… been a real pest."
- On the day of the encounter they were looking for tracks after a neighbor said they had seen a bear so they could report it to FWP
- On the encounter day, he decided to open the door of a barn near an abandoned farm site and check inside, because farmers dump grain sometimes.""
- he looked and the grizzly came flying out of the barn
- The wife came in the truck
- They believe the bear was scared off by the truck after they had used it to chase him off their property several times in the months prior.

A management plan with community outreach and some mandatory guidelines in grizzly habitat might have eliminated the close calls, the abandoned farm that should not be used to dump grain, chasing the grizzly with the truck as the deterrence.
Montana can do better, and a well thought out management plan can do that. It is not good enough to just leave things as they are and when (not if) there is a problem the grizzly is given another chance with relocation and if that doesn't work, they are lethally removed.

Nancy Schultz
Gallatin Wildlife Association Secretary
420 North 10th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715
nancyanaconda@msn.com

the map will not attach or stay embedded, the document is from the Montana Natural Heritage site
Grizzly_Bear_MAMAJB01020_2071109.pdf

#143

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, August 02, 2020 2:26:44 PM
Last Modified:	Sunday, August 02, 2020 2:27:34 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:50
IP Address:	71.53.155.193

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Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

i want every grizzly bear protected and respected for its entire life. none of them deserve to be murdered or killed by farmes or hunters. the general populatin of the usa wants wildlife lives protected fully and ttoally. stop hunting and trapping now.

#144

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, August 02, 2020 1:29:58 PM
Last Modified:	Sunday, August 02, 2020 2:49:18 PM
Time Spent:	01:19:20
IP Address:	174.45.64.57

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Craig Groves

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

To the Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council,

Thank you for your efforts to address the future of grizzly bear management in Montana. It is clear that the Council has brought a diversity of talent and backgrounds to the task at hand and has put considerable thought and effort into the latest draft.

As a retired senior scientist working for an international conservation organization, I particularly appreciated the guiding principles of paying attention to climate change and using the best available science in decision making. Given that both of these principles have suffered considerable setbacks in the current federal administration, it was heartening to see these prominently considered.

While there are many strong recommendations in the latest draft of the Council's report, I'd like to comment on just a few of these:

- Identifying bear movement points across major highways such as the I-90 corridor and then facilitating this movement through the construction of wildlife crossings will be a critical strategy for the future well-being of grizzly bears. We need only look across the border to see how effective these crossings have been for bears in Alberta, Canada. Collaboration among the MT Department of Transportation, Montana FWP, the Federal Highways Administration, and interested conservation organizations will be critical to moving this strategy forward.
- Taking a large landscape approach and identifying and conserving critical connectivity zones that will allow for bear movement among the different populations or sub-populations of bears in Montana is a critical approach for the future well-being of bears in the US portion of the Northern Rockies. Such an approach will help maintain both the genetic and demographic (population level) diversity that will allow bears to flourish over the long term.
- Reducing human-caused mortality of grizzly bears has been paramount to the recovery of the species and will continue to be a critical component to managing these bears. Consequently, the proposed Education and Outreach recommendations as well as the conflict prevention recommendations especially related to waste management and the rapidly increasing outdoor recreation community will be critical to reducing conflict between humans and bears which too often result in a bleak ending for the bears involved.
- With the diversity of views on the Council, it is not surprising that they could not reach a consensus on hunting. That said, their endeavors to develop guidance for the day in which Montana might conduct a hunt, are helpful. While I am a serious elk and deer hunter over the last 18 years in Montana, I am not supportive of a grizzly bear hunting season. I believe the long list of considerations opposing hunting and two bullets supporting it in the current draft summarize the situation and my own thinking quite well. What goes unsaid is that grizzly bear hunting is a token gesture at best to a portion of the hunting community in Montana. And any consideration of a season reflects poorly on the MT Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks in the eyes of the wider wildlife conservation community in the United States. Hunting is on decline in the US, watching wildlife is increasing, and one needs to look no further than the Lamar Valley in Yellowstone or Tom Miner Basin to see the thousands of people enjoying watching grizzly bears and other wildlife. An alive grizzly bear is worth so much more to the people of Montana in so many ways than a successfully hunted one.
- Finally, the recommendations of the Council, as well thought out as they may be, won't go very far without some significant financial resources to make them happen. The Council needs to take very seriously the need to fund grizzly bear management over the long-term future in Montana.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Great to see such a transparent process.

Craig Groves

#145

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, August 02, 2020 3:50:23 PM
Last Modified:	Sunday, August 02, 2020 4:53:27 PM
Time Spent:	01:03:03
IP Address:	97.121.209.178

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Q1

Name (optional):

Randy Newberg

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am commenting to the Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council as someone who was one of the five original Montana members of the Governor's Grizzly Bear Roundtable. Our goal was to work with the USFWS to assist with crafting the Conservation Strategy (CS) for the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear distinct population segment. The work product of that Roundtable forms the core of the current CS used for the GYE distinct population segment.

The scientists and biologists involved in the state, federal, and join grizzly bear study teams are remarkably talented. Since my time on the Roundtable, I continue to engage with these scientists and believe them to be the best source of information related to grizzly populations.

My comments relate mostly to the Yellowstone DPS, but will have applicability to the Northern Continental Divide DPS, given their population growth trends over the last twenty years.

A focus of grizzly bear management has to be tolerance by locals. When one compares the huge changes locals have made to ensure adequate GB habitat and lower human-caused mortalities, the efforts by locals have been immense since 1995. In the Primary Conservation Area (PCA) of the GYE, there is no more logging, there almost not motorized travel, food storage requirements for public land users has been increased, while habitat conservation has been primarily geared toward the needs of GBs.

The large increase in populations has been in large part to the great work done by locals to improve habitat and reduce conflict, thereby reducing human-caused mortality. It cannot be overstated how much sacrifice has been made by local users and communities to the benefit of GBs. And as such, it is imperative that those sacrifices and commitment on behalf of these local communities and public land users be recognized in crafting management strategies.

The USFWS conservation strategy for the GYE provides every possible safety net for a delisted GB population. It provides habitat monitoring, limits on human-caused mortality at both the entire population level and the female sub-population level. It provides "re-listing" mechanisms in the event of population declines and excess human-caused mortality.

The USFWS is currently operating based on the principles of the GYE CS. The recovery and expansion of GBs over the last twenty years is testament to how well that CS is working and will continue to work in the event of delisting. States will be required to operate within that CS or risk re-listing. Any recommendations of your Council must be within the confines of that CS, as it relates to the GYE DPS.

The most controversial aspect of GB management seems to come when hunting is part of the State management plans. Opposition to hunting is not based on the science and management criteria that supports the CS.

The goal of delisting and the purpose of this CS is not to have hunting season, rather to have a recovered GB population that is not endangered. Likewise, the basis for opposing delisting or State management strategies should not be a function of whether hunting or is not allowed under State authority. The goal, and the motivations provided to the States, is to have a robust GB population that is not endangered and not likely to be re-listed, whether or not the State uses hunting as a management tool.

For clarification with regards to hunting as a state management tool, I would direct you to the GYE CS that was put together by the Roundtable, whereby hunting was, and is, considered an allowable and expected management tool of the States. That language is in the CS by design and intention, following much public comment and deliberation of the Roundtable members. Many compromises were made with regard to all human activities that impact GBs, from logging to motorized travel to food storage to trail closures to hunting. Disregarding the give and take of those compromises ignores the years of effort put into this topic and it will erode trust among those who made the greatest compromise.

The language emphasizing hunting acknowledges hunting as an important activity in the states GBs inhabit. That authority given and expected by States to use hunting as a management tool was provided to acknowledge the tremendous changes locals made to their

daily activities and to the way they use the lands, all done by these locals to accommodate the needs of GBs.

In the face of ever expanding GB numbers, many oppose delisting and State management due to the possibility that State management may include hunting. That opposition fails to acknowledge that hunting has been and expected part of GB management in a post-delisting environment. Upon delisting and possible State hunting seasons, hunting will only be allowed within the strict constraints of human-caused mortality limits outlined in the CS.

In the event other sources of human-caused mortality are low enough to allow hunting, I would suggest a few ideas that would provide for a hunting season that gives full value to what this rare experience deserves. I would suggest:

- Make this hunt a backcountry hunting experience. There are plenty of adult males in backcountry areas that would be outside the Primary Conservation Area, with the wide expansion of bears there are plenty of adult makes outside the DMA. Do not allow hunting in areas near roads, as it will create conflicts with other public land users and those photographing and observing GBs in highly visible locations.

- Require full utilization of the meat, as is the case with black bear hunting.

- Require a significant investment of time and education for any person applying for a GB hunting permit. Hunting a GB is a rare opportunity and should be regarded as such. Those not willing to invest time in orientation courses and species/sex identification knowledge should not be allowed to apply for these limited entry permits.

- Severe penalties for taking of a sow with cubs and other efforts must be taken to reduce the taking of sows without cubs. There are enough boars in the population that sows must be protected. It is not difficult for a hunter to determine sows from boars in the GB population.

- Do NOT use hunters as the tool for removal of problem bears. Human-habituated bears are the responsibility of uncaring individuals. The death of those bears should be on the shoulders of those responsible for these human-bear conflicts, not hunters.

I would suggest you consider ways to reduce human-bear conflicts among irresponsible homeowners and public land users. Too often human-habituated bears are removed, a/k/a killed, due to those humans who refuse to take the small steps necessary to prevent human-bear conflicts. Currently we are too lenient on those whose actions result in dead bears. We could have lower human caused mortality, making it easier to stay within the management guidelines of the CS.

GBs are a valued resource and we need to hold all our citizens to a level of behavior that reflects the work and sacrifice many have made to recover these populations far beyond what the Roundtable could have expected during the years of our work from 1999-2001.

I thank you for your work on this Council. I hope you will consider the decades of work that Montana citizens, along with neighboring states, have made to accommodate the needs of these amazing animals. GBs have never disappeared from the Montana landscape, even before Federal intervention. Montana citizens value these bears and our conservation legacy demonstrates we are very capable of managing these bears at robust levels.

#146

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, August 02, 2020 8:32:23 PM
Last Modified:	Sunday, August 02, 2020 9:07:32 PM
Time Spent:	00:35:09
IP Address:	71.15.213.61

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

William Guza

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I want to thank the Council members for your combined efforts in addressing the long-term strategy for how the state of Montana should manage grizzly bears. Your dedication and commitment is appreciated. I understand that reaching a consensus for recommendations from such a diverse group is difficult, at best.
My hope is that the example presented by that the Grizzly Bear Council will encourage enhanced collaboration between Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Montana Department of Transportation, Federal Highways Administration, landowners, the Farm and Ranch community, and conservation organizations to plan and implement wildlife structures to improve grizzly bear connectivity. Ideally, a funding mechanism to support the construction and maintenance of wildlife crossings for the purpose of wildlife connectivity will be addressed in your recommendations. Public, private and conservation group partnerships could provide needed funding.
Another consideration should be the creation of a private lands conservation program that is specifically focused on working with landowners to conserve private lands important to grizzly bear and wildlife connectivity. Consideration of a way to provide dedicated funding for private lands conservation effort through government, private and conservation group involvement should be considered.
Standardized guidelines for bear safe communities and incentives for communities of all sizes to participate should be created.
Food storage protocols across all jurisdictions in Montana should be standardized so that they are easily understood and compliance is made simple for the public.
Establishing grizzly bear translocation protocols supporting grizzly bear connectivity should be considered.
Again, thank you Council members for your dedication and commitment.

#147

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, August 02, 2020 10:42:01 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, August 02, 2020 10:46:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:58
IP Address: 173.3.102.253

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Tatyana

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Dear Council,

I am deeply concerned about the grizzly bear management plan in Montana regions.
These animals have been driven in the past to the brink of extinction in some parts of Montana and since 1975 they are experiencing a very fragile recovery. It is super important to protect/create their habitats and provide enough food supplies: berries, roots and so on. It is a significant task to allocate funding that would fully pay for conflicts between livestock and grizzly bears. Recreation use of public lands rapidly increases, trails become so popular, this way is so momentous to minimize conflicts between grizzly and humans, educate humans, and train them how to use bear spray. Protect all animals from collision with trains and cars, especially mothers with babies. Strict enforcement of poaching is necessary for the long-term conservation of bears, and stringent fines and enforcement should continue.
I urge you DO NOT ALLOW a grizzly bear trophy hunt, baiting, using these ugly foot hold animal traps.
Please remove the guiding principle #9

Sincerely,
Tatyana

#148

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, August 03, 2020 9:18:43 AM
Last Modified:	Monday, August 03, 2020 9:25:50 AM
Time Spent:	00:07:06
IP Address:	65.131.200.168

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Swan View Coalition, Keith Hammer Chair

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

According to the Montana Governor's office, "Bears are encroaching on human habitat like we have never experienced before as these populations continue to recover." (https://www.dailyinterlake.com/news/2020/aug/02/grizzly-council-report-nearly-complete-6/). This smacks of the same assumption of human privilege and prejudice that drove grizzly bears down to 2% of their former numbers and habitat in the lower 48 states as people claimed the grizzly's domain for themselves. The meager recent gains in bear populations and reoccupation of bear habitat is barely a blip on the chart of their demise and yet it is being touted as "recovery" while being complained of as "encroachment."

The privilege and prejudice expressed by the Governor's office makes one wonder whether the recommendations being written by the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council will be used for anything other than political spin for perpetuating this privilege and prejudice against grizzly bears. In this light we offer the following comments on the Council's draft recommendations.

We appreciate that the draft recommendations highlight the issues on which the Council has yet to reach consensus. We urge the council to abandon consensus on these remaining issues in order to present the Governor with a more realistic picture of the diversity of opinion in Montana. To forge consensus through browbeating at this late date will simply present the Governor with a false narrative by which to perpetuate the longstanding human prejudice against grizzly bears.

#149

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, August 03, 2020 10:03:32 AM
Last Modified:	Monday, August 03, 2020 10:16:04 AM
Time Spent:	00:12:31
IP Address:	174.22.10.208

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Arlene Montgomery

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I do not support hunting grizzly bears, it serves no purpose other than to allow people to kill a rare animal to hang on their wall. Grizzlies have been relegated to small unconnected ecosystems and have nowhere near the range they previously occupied throughout the west. To truly recover bears they need room to expand without the threat of being shot for sport or management. There are no "spare" bears.

I appreciate the recommendations to educate the public to be more bear aware while living and recreating in Montana by emphasizing use of bear spray and keeping attractants secure at home and in camps.

#150

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, August 03, 2020 10:45:31 AM
Last Modified:	Monday, August 03, 2020 10:46:39 AM
Time Spent:	00:01:07
IP Address:	72.174.18.135

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Mike Bader

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Comments of independent consultant Mike Bader, August 3, 2020

Dear members of the Grizzly Bear Advisory Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on your latest draft. I have more than 35 years of experience in grizzly bear science and management, including identification of suitable habitats and connectivity areas in the Northern Rockies and Montana.

I encourage you to abandon achieving consensus on the issues you have not reached consensus on. I believe it is beyond the Committee's expertise to recommend for or against hunting of grizzly bears. A better approach is focusing on your recommendations for conflict reduction and effective co-existence practices which I believe will be the Committee's greatest contribution to future bear management.

It would also be short-sighted to recommend "stricter" management protocols for areas outside of "identified connectivity areas." These connectivity areas are in further need of identification and application of management regimes that favor residential occupancy by male and female grizzly bears. Connectivity for transient males only will not work.

Nor should grizzly bears be constricted to narrow lines on a map. All of the western 1/3 of Montana is potentially effective habitat with the exception of highly developed and human-occupied valleys and individual residential sites. As more area is re-occupied by grizzly bears, both suitable and less suitable habitats will be identified and conflict reduction and co-existence strategies will take hold and increase in effectiveness. Bears are very intelligent animals and learn from new conditions. They pass this knowledge on to their offspring.

I would also like to recommend that future research focus on non-intrusive methods such as hair-snagging and DNA analysis. Trapping and drugging bears for research purposes is potentially creating bears with animus towards humans when exactly the opposite is desired.

Your final recommendations should reflect these concerns.

Sincerely,

Mike Bader
Ecological Research Services
Missoula, Montana
mbader7@charter.net

#151

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, August 03, 2020 10:51:50 AM
Last Modified: Monday, August 03, 2020 10:57:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:14
IP Address: 63.153.72.82

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Bobi Young

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

On the issue of Grizzlies I wanted to write and say as people awake to the cycle of life and compassion that mankind is not in charge of nature I must say the hunting of grizzlies must never be allowed. Loss is a natural cycle and to have zero deaths of humans or livestock is a necessary and vital part of the cycle of life. Animals should never be locked into boundaries as migration is a long part of the animal and human world. The biggest problem humans face is not accepting this natural flow of life and death but also that things don't stay the same. Predators are needed and the bear population is still low compared what to what the earth needs it to be, not people. Signed, the Bitteroot

#152

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, August 03, 2020 3:51:03 PM
Last Modified:	Monday, August 03, 2020 3:55:40 PM
Time Spent:	00:04:36
IP Address:	71.32.54.186

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Jeff Lonn

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Dear Grizzly Bear Council,
Thank you for your hard work. In general, I agree with most of your draft document. However, there are items with which I disagree or feel need more emphasis or explanation. These are listed below, followed by my comments:

8. (p. 2): The best available science should inform decisions in all aspects of grizzly bear management and conservation.

This is very important. Socioeconomic considerations should be secondary. Politics should not be considered at all. It's interesting that the council members include not a single scientist.

19. (p 7). Allow natural movement to new areas between all four identified recovery zones in Montana.
23. (p 7). If bears are captured outside recovery zones, bear specialists should have the flexibility to move bears to an appropriate established relocation site.
18e. (p.6). Grizzly bears outside established recovery and connectivity zones should be managed more strictly than those inside the zones.
30. (p, 7). FWP should, in consultation with relevant entities, identify areas that are not "critical to the long-term vitality" of grizzly bears and prioritize relocation or removal of management bears in these areas.

The above four statements suggest that FWP/USFWS should determine where grizzlies can and cannot live. I disagree. Instead, natural dispersal of grizzlies should be encouraged, for example, to their native great plains habitat as is occurring now. If human-bear conflicts arise, they should first be addressed with the same measures taken in areas where bears and humans co-exist; that is, prevent bears from getting into human-provided food sources. Montanans should be proud that they can have grizzlies bears on the land while ensuring the safety and livelihood of its residents.

26. (p 7). Encourage continued federal protections of WSAs and IRAs to maintain habitat security for grizzly bears.

This is extremely important. WSAs need to be managed as Wilderness as required by law. And roads and commercial timber harvest should never be allowed in IRAs.

General Comments:
Roads: Roads, both highways and logging roads, continue to impact the ability of bears to move across the landscape. Montana Department of Transportation should prioritize finding ways to ensure grizzlies and other wildlife can safely move across highways in key connectivity areas. No new logging roads should be built in connectivity areas. Instead, road densities should be reduced in these areas.

Hunting: I submitted comments previously that included comments on the hunting of grizzly bears. I support the arguments opposing hunting in the draft recommendations. Using hunting licenses as the main funding source for wildlife conservation is an outdated method, particularly concerning a species as special as grizzly bears. Surely, other funding sources can be found to protect grizzlies. Until grizzly bears are completely recovered and connected across all recovery zones, it is too early to discuss any hunting. I think the hunting discussion should be dropped from the document; it does not have consensus among council members.

#153

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:49:11 PM
Last Modified:	Monday, August 03, 2020 3:55:47 PM
Time Spent:	Over a day
IP Address:	69.145.133.250

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Jeff Bradley (Montana Bicycle Guild

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Hello,

Please note that I am commenting on behalf of the Montana Bicycle Guild (MBG), a 501c nonprofit based in Helena, Montana and the over 300 members we represent. MBG promotes Montana's mountain biking community and to helps develop and maintain trails for everyone to enjoy. Many of MBG's members recreate regularly on trails that may have grizzly habitat and recognize the need for caution and alertness when bicycling National Forests, BLM, and other public and private lands.

MBG is concerned with the red text found in item 16 d. suggesting that temporary trail closures and special use permits be impacted by grizzly activity.

16 d. Recreation use on our public lands is rapidly increasing. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should coordinate with public land managers to develop plans to address the impacts from recreational use and prevent conflicts between grizzly bears and people on the landscape. This should include a mix of actionable items (i.e. temporary trail closures, special use permits) and consistent and comprehensive outreach and education.

Mountain bikers in Montana are well aware of the wildlife that surrounds them, whether they are on close to home trails around Helena, which is frequented by mountain lions and the occasional moose, or biking in outlying areas where all sorts of wildlife can be seen. Bikers, like hunters, trail runners, and equestrians, understand that bears and other wildlife are part and parcel with experiencing public lands in Montana. Many bikers take precautions such as making noise, riding in groups, using bells, and carrying bear spray. We do not believe temporary trail closures are the solution. Indeed, one would need to close entire regions to human presence which is not effective or practical, and is contrary to the multiple use mandate of the Forest Service and similar mandates of other public land managers.

In normal years MBG also hosts the Montana Enduro Series, which includes races at Big Sky Resort, Whitefish Resort, Grand Targhee Resort and Jackson Hole Resort - all areas in Grizzly country. We work to ensure the safety of participants by monitoring activity and coordinating with the resorts and Forest Service through permitting to minimize conflict between all wildlife and racers. Preventing permitting and shutting down races is not the answer and will harm local economies and the ability of MBG to maintain trails. Currently at our races, we have had and will continue to conduct temporary course closures whenever wildlife is present (deer, moose, elk, bear, cows, etc.) Racing in the area stops until the wildlife moves away at their own discretion (no hazing) before reopening the race. This most recently occurred at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort when a sow black bear and two cubs decided to travel along a section of the course.
Education and knowledge are useful tools, and we would be glad to share information provided by FWP and other sources. Shutting down trails and not issuing permits is not the answer.

Further, MBG notes that there does not appear to be representation from bicyclists or trail runners (human powered recreation) that may be negatively impacted by decisions made by the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Committee.

Thank you,

Jeff Bradley
Montana Bicycle Guild

#154

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, August 03, 2020 4:19:57 PM
Last Modified:	Monday, August 03, 2020 4:24:43 PM
Time Spent:	00:04:45
IP Address:	64.91.62.1

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Paul McKenzie

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Dear Members of the Council,

Please accept the following comments on behalf of F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co. regarding the DRAFT Recommendations under consideration by your council. We would like to thank the Governor's office, the Council members, the various agency and academic personnel and members of the public who have contributed extensively to the activities of the council.

The very fact that we need to have an Advisory Council is cause for celebration of the successful recovery of the grizzly bear. The societal and land management changes that have taken place over the past 30 years have paid off in great recoveries of bear populations, not only within identified recovery zones, but across landscapes that have been unoccupied for decades.

This unprecedented recovery would not be possible without great habitat. It is important to recognize the significant investment, both financial and in changes to land management strategies made by public and private landowners and managers that have made this recovery possible. The north American wildlife management model is unique in that population managers generally have little control over habitat management and conversely, land managers have no control over populations or individuals. This division of responsibility has been a challenge that has been overcome, thanks in great part to voluntary cooperation and collaboration with a common goal.

The goal of the endangered species act has always been recovery and delisting. As we know, management does not stop with delisting, it just changes. We in Montana find ourselves at that tipping point between recovery and ongoing management and that requires a significant shift in attitude moving ahead. Just as bear populations are growing and expanding, so is our human population. Finding room on this shared landscape is the essential challenge of this Council and managers moving ahead. Tolerance must extend both directions, to the bear and to the human. Middle ground and common-sense decision making must prevail.

We fully support the principles that address proactive efforts to prevent and manage conflict. We must recognize the inherent conflict between humans and bears on shared landscapes, both recreational and working. Not all landscapes can or should be "shared". Management strategies must recognize areas where bears take priority and where human uses do. Management decisions must be made based on local conditions and with appropriate priorities, not necessarily always with deference to the bear.

Relying on best available science to inform decisions is a laudable goal, however, this requires research to be ongoing and adaptive to new conditions. Much of the research guiding bear management today was done under VERY different conditions. For example, research on tolerance to roads under today's conditions may be very different from 30+ years ago when habitats were not fully occupied and individual bears had the opportunity to express preference for less disturbance. As bear management progresses, the science needs to explore the issues of today and not just rely on previous research that may or may not be applicable to current conditions.

Principle #11 is right on and should be prioritized. Flexibility and adaptability to complex and diverse landscapes and conditions is essential to managing bears into the future. Similarly, #13's recognition that "biologically suitable does not always mean appropriate" is critical to dealing with an expanding population.

As populations expand beyond the public land dominated watersheds of western Montana, private landowners need to be provided with some certainty surrounding risk management of accepting bears on their lands. In addition to the regulatory risks of having a highly protected animal on private land, the financial risks associated with livestock and crop predation, the liability risks associated with having a large predator on lands allowing private and public use cannot be ignored. Education and outreach are essential, but some consideration of expansion of protection under MCA70-16-302 specific to wildlife risks, for private landowners allowing public use is necessary.

It has taken a long time to get over the appearance of weaponization of the grizzly bear against the way of life for many in Montana. To be successful moving ahead, we must focus on the balance between bears and humans. Local decision making and finding local solutions must be a common element to bear-human management moving ahead. Keeping all tools on the table, including hunting, is

going to be critical to maintaining the balance and thereby perpetuating the tolerance.

In forest management, we have a saying “the trees are the easy part”. To some extent the same is true for grizzly bear management, it is as much a people problem as a bear problem. Quite honestly, the bears will do just fine despite us, the challenge is how to keep both the bears and the people happy. Good luck, we sincerely appreciate your willingness as a council to take on the hard issues. Finding consensus will be difficult, but to avoid the tough issues such as hunting and private land conflict will do nothing to solve the problem. Roll up your sleeves and work through the issues. There are no better suited people to make tough decisions than us here in Montana who have to live with the consequences.

Sincerely,

Paul R. McKenzie
Lands & Resource Manager

#155

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, August 03, 2020 7:31:28 PM
Last Modified:	Monday, August 03, 2020 7:34:43 PM
Time Spent:	00:03:15
IP Address:	69.124.102.111

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Loretta Stadler

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a frequent visitor to Montana, I urge you to protect grizzly bears and ensure they have a place on the landscape. More attention needs to be given to preventing human- grizzly contacts and hunting should not be allowed. Too many grizzlies are already lost to conflicts without humans- lets give them the space on the landscape and connectivity to ensure a healthy population for future generations

#156

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, August 03, 2020 7:24:27 PM
Last Modified: Monday, August 03, 2020 7:35:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:16
IP Address: 71.32.51.231

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Larry Campbell

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Living with grizzly bears requires humility and compassion. I worry that the scarcity of those qualities in humans may doom grizzly bears. The rampant commodification of nature is killing the habitat we all depend on. Mincing with the margins will not save grizzly bears or our shared ecosystem. In hopes of an eventual revolution of consciousness I would suggest simply: do no harm, minimize manipulation of grizzly bears and their habitat, and allow freedom of migration. The bears will show where the migration corridors and survivable habitat are that then should be protected.

#157

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, August 03, 2020 9:01:22 PM
Last Modified:	Monday, August 03, 2020 9:24:12 PM
Time Spent:	00:22:50
IP Address:	174.222.14.252

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Ann White

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Dear members of the Grizzly Bear Advisory Council! At this time in history with human overpopulation it is time to look to the future. A future with large healthy numbers of wildlife in their rightful lands. We humans came here after the Grizzly. We humans need to quit being so selfish, stupid and brutal. Land should be set aside for habit expansion. Hunting needs to stop. When conflict does arise it should not be a shoot first policy. We should be stewards of the land not destroyers of this bountiful planet. Remember Grizzlies were here before we were. The land belongs to them and their ancestors that were here first. Be smarter, kinder and quit taking too much. Preserve Grizzlies! Thank you, ANN WHITE

#158

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, August 03, 2020 9:23:11 PM
Last Modified:	Monday, August 03, 2020 9:28:13 PM
Time Spent:	00:05:02
IP Address:	107.182.41.131

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Kelly R Sweeney

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

August 3, 2020
To the Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council,
I am writing to you today to urge you to continue protecting the nation's iconic grizzly bears. American tax payers have spent millions of dollars since the early 1970's to recover the bear to a mere fraction of its historic range. It would be a tragic thing indeed if we should undo all the hard and expensive work that has been done.
While there are many good points in the Council's Consolidated Draft Recommendations dated July 17, 2020, more needs to be done to ensure the bears exist in healthy numbers that stand a chance against the uncertainty of climate change and human encroachment into their habitats, among other dangers.
While I am not without sympathy for ranchers who lose livestock to predation, I believe, as a farmer myself, that this cost must simply be factored into the overall cost of doing business. If a mountain lion should take one of my goats, the fault is mine for not providing adequate protection for my goats. The mountain lion is simply trying to survive. The same is true for grizzlies taking livestock that graze on lands that belong, in all fairness, to the grizzly. More emphasis should be placed on non-lethal conflict mitigation and all ranchers should have insurance to replace livestock lost to predation.
Additionally, people hiking and recreating, and hunting ungulates or other game in grizzly bear territory, need to be adequately educated in dealing with bear encounters, and should be required by law to carry, and know how to use, bear spray. Instituting a trophy hunt will not decrease bear-human conflict. Multiple studies have already debunked this claim. The one thing that will be effective is education, and the ready availability of bear spray for all people spending time in grizzly bear territory.
Another critical point is the connectivity issue facing the several separate population groups of grizzlies in the lower 48 states. There are six grizzly bear recovery areas, four of which are partially or wholly within the state of Montana, so it goes without saying that the state's role in the future of grizzlies in the US is absolutely critical. It has been shown that if these disparate population groups achieved connectivity, the resulting genetic diversity would strengthen the species as a whole and promote its long term survival. This connectivity should be part of a long term plan for managing the bears over the next decades.
One of the largest drivers of economic activity in all areas where these bears occur is wildlife viewing tourism. Many millions of dollars are brought into the states lucky enough to host these magnificent creatures, dollars that flow into the hospitality industry (hotels and restaurants), the National Parks via Park fees, tour packages, souvenirs, the local merchants via hiking and photography equipment, gasoline and so much more. Each living bear is a renewable resource that keeps on drawing bear lovers from all over the world for the entirety of its life. This is one of the most compelling reasons why hunting these bears makes no sense. The cost of a hunting tag, a small one time transaction resulting in the extinction of a renewable resource, will never come close to the economic impact a single bear would have on the wildlife viewing tourism industry. Even for a single season!
I hope that the Council will vote to recommend increasing outreach and education with the goal of reducing bear-human conflict through non-lethal means, and address the need for the remnant populations of bears in the lower 48 states to achieve connectivity with each other. I also hope that the council speaks in opposition of hunting these bears. Even at the price hunting tags were selling for before the hunt was stopped by a federal judge in 2018, that tag will fall far, far short of the value of the living bear to the greater economy at large. Grizzlies are majestic, icons of wild America, and truly are worth more alive. We all need to work together to ensure we save every one we can, and learn to coexist with these animals who have shown they are willing to coexist with us, if we would but try.
Thank you.
Sincerely,
Kelly R Sweeney

#159

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, August 03, 2020 7:07:03 PM
Last Modified: Monday, August 03, 2020 9:34:46 PM
Time Spent: 02:27:43
IP Address: 75.140.76.56

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Q1

Name (optional):

Michelle Sibinovic

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am commenting in regard to Montana's grizzly bear recovery program and GBAC's current recovery recommendations. It is my understanding that bears live in small, isolated populations and cannot be considered recovered until demographic and genetic connectivity between current recovery zones are established. Therefore, I am writing to demand Montana take a proactive stance on bear recovery which aggressively supports genetic and demographic connectivity without resorting to trophy hunts to "manage" the species. Instead of resorting to the killing of these magnificent creatures, I am strongly advocating that pro-active nonlethal conflict deterrence measures be implemented to reduce livestock-grizzly conflicts. Since Four of the six grizzly bear recovery areas established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the lower 48 states are wholly or partially in Montana it is crucial Montana support a an ethical, holistic science-based approach to grizzly bear recovery that prioritizes funding for conflict prevention and educational outreach without resorting to lethal "control" measures via the licensed killing of Grizzley Bears by "trophy" hunters. There is no scientific evidence that hunting increases social tolerance of Grizzly bears or reduces the number of conflicts. Moreover, Grizzly Bears remain an iconic American species and are considered a national treasure by the majority of the U.S. populace. National public opinion against trophy hunting of Grizzly Bears remains strong and resolute. Grizzly trophy hunts will result in public backlash as well as a loss of tourism revenue to the state and region. Additionally, many Native Tribes of Montana and around the country are opposed to hunting of this great bear. The Council should live up to its intent to respect and honor Indigenous viewpoints by recommending that Montana does not initiate hunting of grizzly bears under any circumstance. Thank for your efforts and the opportunity to speak out on the importance of ethically managing this majestic and treasured species.

#160

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, August 03, 2020 9:14:58 PM
Last Modified:	Monday, August 03, 2020 10:15:27 PM
Time Spent:	01:00:28
IP Address:	63.238.236.30

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Colette Daigle-Berg and Bill Berg

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Hello Council Members~
Thank you for giving your time to sit on this important Council. We've been fortunate to call the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem home for over 45 years. We live in the Gardiner Basin along the Yellowstone River and have enjoyed the wonder and challenges of living with all wildlife in the Basin including grizzly bears.

We fully support your vision of "a fully recovered grizzly population in the four recovery zones located in Montana and landscapes in-between that accommodate grizzly bear presence and connectivity while maintaining the safety and quality of life for those that live, work, and play in Montana".

As Park County and other counties around the state continue to grow it's critical that we recognize and accommodate the presence of grizzlies. The community of Gardiner has embraced this goal. A majority of residents use bear proof garbage cans provided free-of-charge by the Bear Creek Council.

Continuing to promote connectivity of populations by all means possible is also critical. Providing safe travel corridors for grizzlies and other wildlife across (or under) busy highways and freeways should be a priority.

Close cooperation, communication and collaboration between local communities and state, federal and tribal wildlife managers is necessary. It's important that all parties are consistent in methods to safely coexist with grizzlies.

It should also be a goal of federal and state government to secure sustainable funding for education and resources to prevent bear/human conflicts.

Grizzlies are an essential part of the fabric of Montana. Please don't let Montana FWP dictate where grizzlies should, or should not, be. Please focus your recommendations to ensure the natural dispersion (or should we say reversion) of grizzlies on the landscape.

Again, thank you for the time you spend on the Council promoting the recovery of the grizzly bear while ensuring our safety and quality of life. Our quality of life is so much more rich as we learn to live with these great bears.

Thank you for your time~
Colette Daigle-Berg
Bill Berg

#161

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, August 03, 2020 10:43:14 PM
Last Modified:	Monday, August 03, 2020 10:47:44 PM
Time Spent:	00:04:29
IP Address:	76.21.109.184

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Glenn Graham

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I have 2 comments

I agree with finding new ways to fund grizzly bear protection programs, bear awareness programs, research etc. Find a way to get funding from the majority of people who want to see bears alive - and come to Montana to do so. We'd be willing to support it! Its crazy that all the state derived bear funding comes from people who like killing animals (and who numbers will halve in 10 years).

2) Montana's Administrative Rules (section 12.9.1401(1)(c)(ii)) state that "sport hunting is considered the most desirable method of . . . minimizing depredations against private property within or adjacent to grizzly bear habitat." This is untrue. Indiscriminate hunting and killing of grizzly bears is the least effective way to prevent human-grizzly conflicts. The best way is to use proactive, non-lethal measures such as electric fencing and bear-proof garbage containers that target specific conflict situations and are effective over the long term. The Council should recommend that FWP undertake a rulemaking process with public comment to amend that administrative rule accordingly.

#162

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 7:00:37 AM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 7:03:05 AM
Time Spent:	00:02:28
IP Address:	107.191.164.22

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Stimson Lumber Company

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Dear Grizzly Bear Advisory Council,

Thank you for all of your efforts in developing the guiding principles and recommendations for the continued recovery of the Grizzly Bear. As one of the largest owners of working forest in Montana, Stimson stands by the protection of Grizzly Bear habitat as evidenced by our commitment to place over 70,000 acres in Lincoln County into a permanent, non-development conservation easement. This land will remain working forest in perpetuity and provides important linkage between the Selkirk and Cabinet/Yaak recovery areas.

Stimson supports the prudent management of Grizzly Bears and the professional opinions of Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologists. It is our opinion that management using lethal means through a limited hunt can be an effective tool to control population in recovered and delisted populations.

Stimson does have a concern regarding the various funding needs for increased FWP staff capacity, livestock loss compensation, research, etc. We do not favor additional taxation and would prefer that these programs be funded through existing FWP budget, grants, philanthropy and sharing resources between the different agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Stimson Lumber Company

#163

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 7:18:30 AM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 7:19:49 AM
Time Spent:	00:01:18
IP Address:	174.45.75.36

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Great Bear Foundation

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

This comment is submitted on behalf of the Great Bear Foundation, a Montana-based non-profit dedicated to the conservation of bears and their habitats through conflict mitigation, education and outreach, and community engagement. Great Bear Foundation thanks the council for its thoughtful consideration through which they drafted their recommendations. We recognize the difficult process of representing a variety of stakeholders and trying to find common ground to move towards a future with healthy, connected bear populations and reduced conflicts while knowing that a spectrum of tolerance for grizzly bears will always be present.

Re: 2. Provide easy access to education about hunting safely in grizzly bear county for in-state and out-of-state hunters.

How will ‘easy access’ to materials about bear safety while hunting be distributed? It was stated in the Missoula December GBAC meeting that out-of-state hunters are not given information on bear safety. This education gap is recognized by FWP. Last year, four out-of-state hunters were attacked in the Gravelly Mountains. Of those, some were carrying bear spray while others were not. Some deployed bear spray correctly while others did not. Kalispell has outreach available in the airport, numerous nonprofits and agencies address hunter safety, and individual outfitters have their own protocols. The need for consistent messaging is recognized by the GBAC recommendations, state and federal agencies, and the organizations present at the 2020 January Grizzly Outreach Summit. There is yet to be consistent messaging for hunters, and for those who do not choose to go with an outfitter or fly to Montana, how are we assuring these hunters receive bear safety education at all? Creating a bear safety portion during the FWP online out-of-state hunter permitting process would a) guarantee consistent messaging, b) guarantee safety education reaches the intended audience, and c) help reduce human-bear conflicts while hunting. Hunter education is a human safety issue that is recognized across the board. While each organization, outfitter, and agency has their own messaging standards, the council recommending that FWP leads in providing hunter education to each person who receives a permit would help work towards reducing hunter-bear conflicts.

Re: 18 (a). Allow for transfer of expertise from bear managers to bear managers in training.

We strongly support the need for bear managers to have full time technicians whom they can train and pass along decades of experience and knowledge. This training transfer is going to be crucial as bear managers retire. Technicians having hands-on experience and guidance will benefit the future of bear management in the state by building trust with landowners and ensuring knowledge is passed down. This is a time sensitive recommendation, because the more time technicians spend learning with bear managers, the better equipped they will be to lead bear management in the future.

Re: 21. Private landowners and local communities should be prepared to have grizzlies and should be encouraged to prevent conflicts.

Private landowners and local communities need resources to be able to prevent conflicts. Directly assisting communities with conflict prevention with resources that reflect state accepted practices versus merely ‘encouraging’ conflict prevention will help make widespread conflict prevention a reality. These situations are where a bear education coordinator will be critical for successful bear management, tolerance, and coexistence in both rural and urban communities as bears expand their range. Providing resources, funding, and educational materials gives communities methods and consistent messaging for reducing bear conflicts.

#164

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Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 7:20:12 AM
Time Spent:	00:04:57
IP Address:	216.14.244.156

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Q1

Name (optional):

Brent Morrow

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

There should be no hunting season for Grizzly Bear. Too many are being killed on the highway and by way of human encounters via attractants, etc. As populations grow in some areas prone to human encounters, trapping and removal should be used to move bears throughout the west to restore populations.

#165

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 7:52:09 AM
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IP Address: 209.137.227.33

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Q1

Name (optional):

Kathy Kinzfogl

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I have lived in the Swan Valley in a Grizzly Bear Corridor for 40 years. We live in harmony and don't have problems because we got aware of the things that create problems and we don't do those things. We have a large meadow they like to come to in the spring to eat grass. We have any hills they also like to eat. I'm late summer we have choke cherries the birds and bears enjoy. They are not a threat or a problem. We respect the bears and give them the environment they can be bears in. I'm against hunting grizzly bears.

#166

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 8:04:14 AM
Time Spent:	00:03:11
IP Address:	184.167.252.216

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Q1

Name (optional):

Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

August 2, 2020

Grizzly Bear Advisory Council
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 E. 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Grizzly Bear Advisory Council,

Thank you for your dedication this past year to develop recommendations that will inform the future management of Montana's official state animal, the iconic grizzly bear. Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance recognizes that grizzly bear management is a difficult and complicated issue. Thank you for your time and energy. Thank you too for the opportunity to offer comment on your draft recommendations before finalization.

Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance is a grassroots conservation organization based in East Glacier Park. Our organization is committed to the complete recovery of grizzly bears in Montana. On behalf of our hundreds of members and supporters, I am pleased to provide the following comment on the Grizzly Bear Advisory Council's (Council) draft recommendations. This comment specifically refers to the July 28th version of the "Consolidated DRAFT Recommendations" posted on the Council's webpage. This comment is organized by the topical headings in this document.

I. Preamble
We appreciate the acknowledgement of the significance of grizzly bears to many Native Nations, both in Montana and encouragement that traditional knowledge and values be incorporated into the conservation and management of the bears. Similarly, we appreciate the acknowledgement of the species significance to other residents and visitors to our state. We also appreciate the acknowledgement that recovery of grizzly bears is an on-going process and that public, private, and working lands are all significant to the successful conservation of this animal species. The preamble could use a few tweaks. First, the preamble should stress the importance of both genetic and demographic connectivity to the recovery and persistence of a healthy grizzly bear population. Genetic and demographic connectivity measure different aspects by which distinct populations interact and affect each other over different time scales. Currently, grizzly populations in Montana remain geographically isolated with no known natural exchange of genetics or individuals between populations. Establishing both genetic and demographic is critical if recovery is to be sustained. Second, the Preamble should acknowledge that a primary obstacle to grizzly bear recovery is human-caused mortality and that reducing human-caused mortality should continue to be a primary focus of management even after eventual de-listing. Both these tweaks would better contextualize the rest of the document.

III. Guiding Principles
The Guiding Principles contain many laudable statements. In particular, we appreciate:

- the clear expectation that all people in Montana should expect to potentially encounter grizzly bears on the landscape.
- the emphasis on reducing negative human-bear interactions through various non-lethal strategies as well as secure habitat protections.
- the need to develop new and diverse resource bases, including both public and private funding sources, as well as conservation tools.
- the use of best available science to inform management (including the consideration of the effects of climate change on bear food sources),
- the role of working landscapes in grizzly recovery – like any wildlife species, bear distribution should not be determined by land ownership.
- the importance of engagement, especially with local communities and landowners, as well as broader public education, to promote coexistence.

At the same time, we think several principles should be removed, revised or added.

Guiding Principle #9 should be removed. The wording in this principle is unclear, but seems intent on demarcating certain lands as beyond the pale for grizzly occupancy and recovery based on social rather than biological criteria. The Council should not recommend any management approaches that place a priori limits on the future distribution of grizzly bears in their historic habitat. Furthermore, as FWP briefed the Council last November, lands east of the Rocky Mountain Front and north of I-90 are critical to linking the grizzly bear population in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) with bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). Vast areas in this geographic region also provide suitable grizzly habitat in their own right and re-occupancy should be anticipated and facilitated by managers via promotion of coexistence strategies. Any new “lines” would also be in conflict with the Conservation Strategy for the NCDE laid out by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Guiding Principle #13 should be revised. While, the Council is right to emphasize the importance of connectivity to the long-term recovery and persistence of grizzly bears, the recommendation needs to name both “genetic and demographic connectivity.” It is also unclear what the Council means by “acceptable” or “appropriate” habitat but creates a likely and unacceptable pre-tense to keep or remove bears from certain areas based on social preferences rather than actual conditions on the ground. Thus this third sentence which begins “Not all of these settings…” should be removed.

Guiding Principle #15 should be strongly revised. We recognize that bear management resources are limited and priorities have to be made. However as written, Guiding Principle #15 indicates that parts of Montana will remain unprepared indefinitely for the presence of grizzly bears so that resources are prioritized in areas of existing occupancy. This effectively creates areas of Montana “off-limits” to grizzlies by discouraging the necessary proactive investments necessary to prepare these areas for possible occupancy by grizzly bears. Slicing up the map is an unacceptable way to manage Montana’s native wildlife. Instead, the state should continuously seek to “get out ahead” of bears in both space and time to help prepare communities to live with these animals. This will require finding additional resources through public and private partnerships (including with non-profit organizations). A more accurate principle would state:

“Communities in parts of Montana where grizzly bears are not currently established but near where bears are expanding their range will likely need assistance from the state and other partners to prepare for and adapt to living successfully with grizzly bears.”

We also believe the Council should add two new principles to guide grizzly bear management. The first identifies the proper legal and theoretical basis for management:

“Grizzly bears are a native wildlife species that will be managed according to public trust principles.”

Montana FWP has a proud history of conserving and managing native wildlife in the public trust as well as advancing the principles of public trust thinking. This new guiding principle clarifies that grizzly bears will be managed as a public trust resource for the benefit of all Montanans present and future.

The second new principle identifies co-existence as a primary goal for management.

“Management of grizzly bears should first and foremost seek to promote the ability and willingness of Montana residents to co-exist with grizzly bears.

Long-term persistence requires co-existence and that goal needs to be laid out in plain language.

Section 2
Education and Outreach
Education and outreach is critical to the long-term success of grizzly bear management in Montana. The council included many excellent recommendations. In particular, we appreciate:

- An annual state-wide celebration of grizzly bears
- Expanding public education opportunities, including Bear Aware programs, and FWP’s capacity to provide the public with clear,

accurate and accessible information

- The emphasis on non-lethal conflict prevention measures, including educating the wider public on the use of bear spray as the best means of personal safety
- Better public communications and consistent messaging in order to enhance public understanding of grizzly bear management

The following changes will improve the Council's draft recommendations:

#2 – The Council should add to this recommendation that hunters must successfully complete the Bear Identification Program prior to purchasing a bear-hunting license each year, not merely prior to purchasing their first bear hunting license as is currently required.

#6 – Rephrase to direct Montana FWP to create a state-wide database that tracks annual grizzly mortality across the whole state. The database should be publicly accessible and include data by recovery zones, grizzly demographics, and mortality source. The Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team database for the GYE rightly serves as an excellent model.

Conflict Prevention
We support all the provisions suggested in this section of the draft recommendations. We suggest the inclusion of an additional recommendation related to hunting. The Council should recommend that FWP require all licensed hunters (regardless of target species) hunting in known or likely grizzly bear habitat to carry bear spray in an accessible manner. Failure to comply should be subject to penalty.

Agriculture
Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance fully supports greater funding for the Livestock Loss Board that would support the availability and implementation of non-lethal conflict reduction tools and practices. Ranches and other private lands provide key habitat for grizzly bears, just as they do for other native wildlife species. While private landowners have a civic duty and legal responsibility to allow wildlife on their property, including grizzly bears, the public as owners and beneficiaries of these animals should help landowners adapt to living with grizzly bears. Greater funding for non-lethal conflict prevention measures is a critical part of this equation. At the same time, we encourage the Council to recommend that livestock owners must implement non-lethal measures as a pre-requisite to be eligible for financial compensation should they lose livestock to grizzly bears.

Waste Management/Sanitation
We fully support the development and implementation of waste management policies and practices throughout grizzly country as well as in areas of likely grizzly expansion. Requirements and provisions for bear-proof garbage cans or the secure storage of pet food/birdseed help keep attractants away from bears and reduce the likelihood of food habituation or other conflicts. Programs and resources that help communities/sanitation companies transition to best practices should be developed and/or promoted.

Conflict Response
We fully support permanent, year-round funding for bear management specialists and technicians. These positions are critical to our collective ability to cultivate greater co-existence with grizzly bears. Additional positions need to be created and located in areas where bears are expanding.

Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance offers two changes:

- 17(iv)(5): NEW. Add "Fully funding these positions would allow bear managers to build social tolerance for current and future grizzly bear occupancy."
- 17(viii): Revise. There are two problems with this recommendation. First, the language "more strictly" is unclear but seems to wrongly suggest that bears outside these identified zones will more likely euthanized or relocated should some "problem" occur than they would be under similar circumstances elsewhere. This in turn implies demarcation in the areas of Montana bears may occupy as a matter of policy rather than actual conditions on the ground. The Council should not be making such distinctions. Rather, this provision should read "Grizzly bears outside established recovery and connectivity zones should be managed to facilitate recovery and connectivity goals. Grizzly bear occupancy in these areas will not be actively discouraged. They will be managed primarily through conflict response techniques." Such language mirrors language in the NCDE Conservation Strategy.

Distribution, Relocation, and Occupancy
Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance is largely in support of this set of recommendations. We particularly like the recommendations that

Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance is largely in support of this set of recommendations. We particularly like the recommendations that further the ability of bears to occupy recovery zones, areas between recovery zones, as well as managers to relocate bears to locations that further recovery and conservation. We particularly appreciate #26 which seeks to reduce transportation related mortality. Train-strikes and highway mortality continue to be concerning sources of mortality for bears in our area of the NCDE. Improved plans and coordination to minimize and mitigate food attractants along right-of-ways must be a priority.

Several of this set of recommendations need revision. We recommend revising #25 to include state forest lands, not just federal lands. We would add a clause that reads:

“The state of Montana should minimize road building and other habitat altering projects on states lands identified as important grizzly bear habitat.”

If followed, this recommendation will help provide habitat security and continuity between state and federal lands as well as reduce conflicts between human users of state forests and grizzly bears.

Next, we strongly encourage the Council to remove recommendations #27, #28, and #29. All three recommendations seek to define areas where bears may be and areas where bears may not be. We disagree with this approach. While we recognize the need to prioritize limited resources, these recommendations (especially #29) suggest that the ability of bears to inhabit an area will be based on pre-determined resource allocation decisions, not the biological suitability of the land, tolerance of local residents, and behavior of the bear. These recommendations also insinuate that managers know which areas are important for dispersing bears and which aren’t. Although biologists can make predictions with some degree of confidence, recent bear expansion suggests the bears themselves have a far better nose for how to navigate the landscape. Just as we need to provide managers flexibility in response to conditions on the ground, bears too need flexibility and freedom to pioneer their preferred corridors. We also disagree with #29’s suggestion that removal of bears should be prioritized based on geography. FWP should follow the lead of the NCDE Conservation Strategy and not actively discourage bear occupancy anywhere. The agency should only use capture and relocation when other non-lethal methods of managing problem bears are not likely to be successful. As written, #29 is bad bear management, inconsistent with public trust principles, and inconsistent with recommendations of the Council throughout this document that place a premium on coexistence.

Finally, we suggest two additional recommendations to this section. First, the Council should add:

Montana FWP should work with the USFS and the Pacific Northwest Trail Association to re-route the Pacific Northwest Trail away from secure grizzly habitat in the Cabinet-Yaak recovery zone.

The grizzly population in the Yaak barely persists and has limited areas of secure habitat. Federal agencies should not be routing more people into areas that are absolutely vital for the recovery of this population. Plenty of alternative locations exist that can provide an exceptional trail experience for long-distance hiking with far less impacts to this population of grizzly bears.

Second, the Council should explicitly acknowledge the importance of the NCDE grizzly bear population as a potential source for population augmentation/reintroduction in other recovery zones, including the Bitterroots and North Cascades by adding the following recommendation:

“If the US Fish and Wildlife Service seeks to restore or augment grizzly bear populations in other federally identified grizzly bear recovery zones, then Montana FWP should willingly assist those efforts if asked to do so by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.”

This would help ensure continued cooperation between the two governments in the recovery of grizzly bears in the event Montana resumes management for certain subpopulations, such as in the NCDE or GYE.

Resources

We fully agree that successful grizzly bear management will require greater resources than are currently available to Montana FWP. Additional capacity must be generated including diversified funding for the state as well as partnerships with both government and non-government entities. We appreciate the Council pushing the state to seek creative ways to acquire the necessary resources and partnerships to promote grizzly bear recovery. Per recommendation #13, Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance would be happy to serve on a citizen working group that further explored these possibilities.

Section 2 – Guidance Around the Role of Hunting
Finally, we offer the following comments on hunting. Until grizzly bears are fully recovered, any discussion of hunting is premature as hunting is fully at odds with the conservation of the species at this time as it increases human-caused mortality – a key limiting factor in grizzly recovery. Furthermore, as the Council's draft recommendation document makes abundantly clear (as does the record of presentations at previous Council meetings), there is no conclusive scientific evidence that a sport hunt will have the conflict-mitigation effect its boosters suggest. This is especially true if grizzly bears are managed consistent with public trust principles, including fair chase hunting. Nor is there good evidence that sport hunting actually increases tolerance. Given the absence of scientific evidence for sport hunting of grizzly bears as an effective conservation tool and the lack of demonstrable public acceptability of sport hunting, the Council should recommend against creating a sport hunt for grizzly bears. If it cannot, then the Council at the very least, should recommend FWP reassess the scientific merits and public acceptability of hunting only after grizzly bears have fully recovered in all four recovery zones in Montana. Furthermore, any future determination on whether or not to institute a hunt must equally consider the interests of non-consumptive wildlife enthusiasts (e.g. wildlife watchers, artists, photographers, scientists and other non-hunters) as well as the potential impacts to Montana's tourism economy.

The Council should recommend at this time that FWP honor tribal nations' opposition to the hunting of grizzly bears and their unique cultural relationship with grizzly bears – as indicated by the Grizzly Bear Treaty between over 200 Tribal Nations and various statements from individual tribal nations such as the Blackfeet and Confederated Salish and Kootenai. FWP could best do this by prohibiting outright all hunting of grizzly bears on public lands that are culturally important to federally-recognized tribes, such as the Badger-Two Medicine or the Crazy Mountains. Such a recommendation would be not only the right thing to do, but would also be consistent with the preamble of the draft recommendations.

In closing, we appreciate the hard work of our fellow citizens to provide guidance to the future state management of this valued native species. Thank you for taking our comments and considering them before finalizing your recommendations. We believe our recommendations will help improve the long success of grizzly bear conservation and management in Montana, further adding to our states' deserved legacy as a leader in wildlife conservation. The grizzly bear deserves to be managed as a valued native wildlife species throughout its historic range in Montana. Anything that sets parts of Montana as automatically off-limits to bears should be struck from these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Peter Metcalf
Executive Director

PS: a copy has been emailed.

#167

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Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 10:07:47 AM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 10:49:24 AM
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Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

If we are to assist grizzly bear recovery there are certain key changes that need be made. 1.Connectivity: Linkage of ranges need be established so that genetic and demographic connectivity and dispersal potential be achieved. Female bears that will establish ranges in linkage areas are critical in achieving full recovery of the species. Conflict prevention must be top priority in linkage areas. 2 Conflict prevention. Funding should be directed towards prevention and not lethal control. Relocation can be a death sentence for a bear. Relocation and killings should be avoided and only permitted in rare cases of direct threat to human life (and not property). Especially in connectivity areas an effort should be made for education of communities to avoid conflict.3.Hunting: Hunters should hunt with a partner, should not hunt prey late in the day and must always carry bear spray. Legislation must be supported to encourage permanent retirement of livestock grazing alottments on public lands. It is not scientifically supported that hunting is an effective measure for minimizing depredations. The best way is the use of proactive non-lethal measures such as electric fencing, bear proof garbage cans- these are effective in the long term. Finally I would emphasize that grizzlies are sacred to indigenous people and a source of livelihood to all the communities in grizzly country. Wildlife tourism is a huge source of profit. Grizzlies are loved and admired all over the country and are more valuable alive and protected than hunted. Thank you for your time and for taking into consideration the above.

#168

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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Suzanne M Vernon

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Is there any way to paste comments or attach a Word document to this portal today? Thank you.

#169

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IP Address:	73.239.129.169

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Suzanne M Vernon

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

August 4, 2020

To:

Grizzly Bear Advisory Council
Montana FWP
Helena, MT

Regarding: DRAFT recommendations for management
July 17 and July 24, 2020

Public Comment

I lived in the Swan Valley of western Montana near Condon for forty years, half that time “off the grid” on a remote property frequented by bears. But as you know, all of that beautiful valley is grizzly habitat and if you live there you learn to live with those beautiful bruins.

I am attaching as part of this comment a Letter to the Editor about “Windfall” that was published in the Missoulian newspaper in the fall of 2019, authored by me and signed by many community members. Please read that letter and know that I, and many others, are still heartbroken over her death and the fate of her cubs.

Please also know this: I have lived with grizzlies and the priority must be for people to be educated about bears. The more I learn to think like a bear, the better I can live with a bear who considers my private property part of his or her domain.

While in the Swan Valley I worked for the Forest Service (still do) beginning in Seeley Lake scarcely five years after grizzlies were first protected; then started the Pathfinder newspaper (with partners) in 1986 – when game warden Jay Haveman called us to photograph a grizzly feeding along the edge of a meadow where the elk calve every spring, barely 200 yards from a historic ranch and Highway 83 near the Summit. I then went to work for the Swan Ecosystem Center recording oral history of the valley. The stories we recorded indicated that grizzlies used all of the valley for generations. FWP and USFWS soon confirmed what the elders and tribal residents knew, that bears moved throughout the Valley bottom and across the entire landscape, to the Mission valley, east to Ovando, north to Bigfork, and even Eureka.

We started sharing the stories of the Oral History Project. Swan Ecosystem Center in partnership with other groups started a community Bear Aware program. It was successful.

In about 2005 I became involved with the Condon Community Plan, first as a local citizen, then as the years went on, as a contributor, and later as a commenter and volunteer editor of the drafts. Throughout the experience of attending Plan meetings and working line by line through the plan, what I heard increasingly in the community was a distinct division in philosophy about what citizens believed a rural lifestyle entailed. On the one hand, many citizens treasure and defend the protection of a quiet landscape, the fresh air, the clean water, and above all, the wildlife. On the other hand, another group of citizens are more focused on development, economic opportunity, and creating jobs. Among this second group is a distinct verbalization of lawlessness -- that is, many don’t believe that the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, or the Clean Air Act, apply to people in western Montana where “we are surrounded by pristine nature, and plenty of grizzlies.”

By 2016 I felt like we were right back into the polarization of the 1990s and The Great Log Haul, the timber industry versus the environmentalists. The bears are caught in the cross fire.

We have many new people in the valley: New residents; friends of residents getting away from the cities; new Air BnB type rentals;

tourists, tourists, tourists.

The bear aware program wasn't keeping up, due to many factors. Maybe the biggest is that people have become increasingly lazy about storing garbage, grain, bird seed and dog food.

As I wrote above, two major outside factors work against the bears of the Swan Valley. (1) indiscriminate real estate agents (and planning boards) eager to develop and sell properties without funding FWP, USFWS, or FS or educating new owners about bears, garbage, and livestock feed; and (2) the Montana Office of Tourism which eagerly promotes this state using high quality films of Holland Lake and Ovando, yet doesn't add funding to help mitigate conflicts caused by the increased traffic on Highway 83 and the mess at all of our campgrounds and dispersed campsites.

I have read your draft reports and especially will support these recommendations:

More funding for bear managers and technicians.

More funding for recreation managers to help with dispersed sites and education.

More funding for the creation of statewide Bear Aware programs and community partnerships.

Support partner groups to help garner funding for:
- Conflict reduction tools and practices for farms and ranches
- Bear aware programs and personnel
- Commercial losses
- Community based proactive efforts for small farmsteads (chickens, horses)
- Conflict prevention measures
- Garbage removal solutions
- Agricultural conflict resolution, including funding for livestock loss

Government agencies should make food storage regulations consistent throughout the state, noting that Yellowstone and Glacier national parks might be more restrictive.

I applaud your work, and also the wisdom of this governor in creating the council. I do hope all stakeholders can work together with non-profit organizations to raise the necessary funds for these recommendations to be implemented. It will take a village.

For those who are curious, In February 2020, my husband and I moved to Tacoma to live with our daughter and be closer to our son. Our hearts are still in the Swan and we will continue to support that community and its grizzlies.

Sincerely,

Suzanne M. Vernon
8513 92nd St. SW
Lakewood, WA 98498

253-448-9999 cell
Zanne.vernon@gmail.com

WINDFALL
To the Editor of the Missoulian
September 16, 2019

SWAN VALLEY. She was born on a cold winter day, wrapped and warm, high above the headwaters, in the same landscape where she

later she gave birth to celebrated triplets. She was loved by her neighbors, and many people experienced firsthand the wonder of those young siblings following mama through the forests and meadows they called home. Last week, behind bars, this shining example of creation died a quiet, sobering death -- not because she had failed, but because this gracious and now grieving community had failed her.

She was so greatly admired that we gave her a name from the mountains themselves: Windfall.

Windfall taught us about gratitude in the highest sense of the word. We experienced the absolute, pure joy of watching her at her best. Wild. Free. Gorgeous. How do we know? Because today our hearts are broken. She is gone. Forever a memory. Three youngsters are now orphans. No more pictures on Facebook of a grizzly bear sow and three cubs roaming the woods near our cabins.

But that is exactly why the officials had to kill her. She couldn't resist coming closer and closer to the tempting smells that hung in the air near those buildings. Windfall could track scent for miles by lifting her nose and gently testing the breeze. At first she startled us, then entertained us. Game cameras clicked. Cell phones, videos.

But those tantalizing aromas. That stinky garbage. Our chickens. Dog food. Bird seed. No bear would pass up such a buffet.

She's going to get in trouble, we thought. She will end up dead. We listened to rumors, blamed the world, did nothing.

Windfall was a young mother just learning, and she found rewards. Steak trimmings in unsecured garbage. Spilled sunflower seeds. She must have thought, this feels good.

Life was good for everybody until she broke into that building. Who knew there were rules?

Humans. Grizzlies have been protected since the 1970s. We have rules about keeping our properties clean, but nobody holds us accountable.

Windfall paid the price because this time, we didn't. Our bear resistant garbage cans weren't locked. We were too proud to install electric fences so Windfall would have been wary. What were we thinking?

On the day that officials euthanized Windfall, we cried. Some of us are still crying. And those babies. We might never see a grizzly family like hers again in the Swan River country.

We didn't do the right thing. That first time this she-bear came close to our cabins, our barns, our garbage – we should have paid attention to what SHE saw, what SHE smelled. We should have thought about what SHE was thinking. We should have known she would die if our eyes weren't tracking her nose. As prideful human beings, we were thinking only about ourselves. It was easier to allow a grizzly to learn the wrong things, than it was for us to teach that beautiful sow how to do things right.

The death of Windfall has torn our hearts, not by claws, but by self-gratification. We thought about our own experience of seeing the bear, but not about the bear family and what they added to our lives. In this quiet, rural community where we still hold nature close, we have lost a treasure, an amazing spirit that fully contributed to the wholeness and community of our sense of place.

Suzanne M. Vernon
Author
Suzanne has lived in the Swan Valley for 39 years.

The people listed below as co-signers in support of Windfall are all Swan Valley residents or landowners.

George Beck
Emily Beck
Andy Carstensen
Deb Carstensen
Anne Dahl
Wendy Drasdo
Kari Gunderson
Idamarie Hunter
Kathy Kinzfogl
Kathleen Koors
Sharon Lamar
Steve Lamar
Wendy Montfort
Bill Moore
Patrick O'Herren
Brian Parks
Terry Quinn
Jenny Rohrer

Jenny Rohrer
Mary Shaw
Grace Siloti
Sally Thomason
Hank Trotter
Robert Tupling
Sheldon Vernon
Lindsey Wancour
Liza Ward
Jon Wittrich
Dodie Wood

#170

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments related to grizzly management in Montana and how it effects our economy, lifestyles and impacts the definition of Montana going forward.
Montana is one of the few places remaining that has enough and varied wildlife species that it comprises an important part of our economy. Thousands of locals and out-of-state visitors enjoy being out on Montana public lands for the possibility for wildlife viewing. Those activities generate $7.1 billion to local economies and create over 70,000 jobs, equal to $2.2 billion in wages for economies. This is taken from the 2017 Headwaters Economic Report.
A live grizzly in infinitely more valuable to Montana's economy that one shot and mounted in someone's a mega mansion.
In the draft recommendations, certain zones have been designated less essential to the connectivity of grizzly populations. This seems to contradict sound wildlife management that encourages the greatest genetic diversity to prevent inbreeding that weakens a species.
The effects of climate change (loss of food sources) and continual encroachment by humans into grizzly habitats and being hit on highways also have an increasingly profound impact on their survivability.
In areas where grizzlies coexist in ranching communities, all methods to mitigate loss and damage should be utilized to preserve this rare and majestic species. be clearly articulated in a MTFWP grizzly anagement plan.
When I visit with people who have come here from other parts of the country or other countries, they are appalled that hunting of bears is still even allowed in Montana.
In some places, it went by the wayside decades, even centuries ago. They are surprised that we are not doing everything we can to preserve the wildlife we have.
Frankly, I'm not sure how to even answer them. It gives Montana a reputation of having less that thoughtful planning.
I grew up on a ranch in Broadwater Co. and have been in the woods my entire life. Yet, now, going into wooded areas is a totally different experience.
Gone are the chattering and chirping and brush crashing as animals bounded away. In many areas, it is now like walking through a graveyard.
Let's preserve what we have left while we have it, as it is on the brink of disappearing.
Thank you.

#171

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 1:49:16 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 1:51:15 PM
Time Spent:	00:01:58
IP Address:	184.63.173.83

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Protect this iconic species for future generations

#172

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:39:10 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:40:37 PM
Time Spent:	00:01:27
IP Address:	13.52.33.185

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Karen Renne

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly rights are important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana: an absolute ban on hunting, trapping or otherwise killing grizzly bears. Proven cases of bears molesting people or livestock should be dealt with by removal to remote areas in the northern Rockies. This is a species under siege.

Karen Renne

#173

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:40:54 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:41:17 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:22
IP Address:	13.52.33.185

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Q1

Name (optional):

Amy Chisholm

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly rights are important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana:

* Allowances for both genetic and demographic connectivity between grizzly bear populations, which are critical for long-term recovery.
* Coexistence with grizzlies and education about prevention of conflicts between bears and people, and bears and livestock
* More ambitious goals for recovery, Grizzlies only occupy a tiny fraction of their former habitat; with the challenges of climate change and a growing human population
* No trophy hunting of grizzlies now or in the future
* A plan that does NOT recommend that new lines be drawn on a map where bears can and can?t be, or where they are deemed unimportant and where relocation or killing of bears is prioritized

Thank you!

#174

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:34:36 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:41:23 PM
Time Spent:	00:06:46
IP Address:	63.153.22.156

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Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

August 4, 2020

Dear Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council-

Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments to this Council. We thank you for your commitment to finding solutions to challenges surrounding grizzly bear recovery. GYC believes in the value of listening and learning from people with different perspectives and in that spirit, we are appreciative of your thoughtful collaboration throughout a challenging process.

GYC is a 501c3 non-profit organization working to protect the lands, waters, and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) now and for future generations. We represent over 90,000 supporters throughout Montana and across the United States. GYC has been engaging in grizzly bear conservation and management for more than 35 years. Early on, we worked hard to fight for grizzly bears and protect habitat key to their recovery. Over the years, we've shifted our role to being a partner and trusted collaborator. We recognize the success of grizzly bear conservation efforts and are committed to tackling the challenges that come with that success. We work with agencies, ranchers, recreationists, and communities around the GYE to develop programs to reduce conflicts as grizzly bears expand into historic habitat. We strongly believe that grizzly bears and people can live and thrive together on shared landscapes.

Our supporters have a strong interest in management that affects grizzly bears in Montana and throughout the rest of the GYE. Part of our work to ensure Greater Yellowstone grizzly bears thrive is to advocate for policies and projects that protect core grizzly bear habitat, connective lands, and the ability of grizzly bears to move across southwest Montana. We envision a day when Yellowstone grizzly bears connect to other recovery areas and successfully live in the lands between. Montana is home to the two largest grizzly populations in the lower-48 and large landscapes characterized by open space. The opportunity to see the conservation vision for connected grizzly populations to fruition is an issue unique to Montana.

We have been tracking the Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council (Council) process closely. We are optimistic that with so many different stakeholder experiences represented in the process, this Council will create durable solutions for Montana. We support and appreciate the preamble and vision you have outlined in your draft report. We believe these statements capture the ways in which grizzly bears are part of our identity as Montanans. GYC is encouraged to see your commitments to connectivity between recovery zones and we applaud your emphasis on conflict prevention, education and outreach, and the need for more resources to successfully rise to the challenges and opportunities that grizzly bear expansion is posing to Montana communities.

GYC has several suggestions that we hope the Council will consider while making final revisions to the report.

General recommendations:

1) We encourage the council to explicitly endorse the initiation of a Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) process that will solicit substantial public involvement in crafting statewide management direction for grizzly bears in Montana. We believe a statewide planning process could address many of the challenging questions the grizzly council has grappled with related to grizzly bear distribution, conflict response protocol, and relocation sites. There is opportunity to address these topics by establishing geographic guidance in conflict response protocol (i.e. management zones that reflect the conservation value of grizzly bears expanding into a given area). Any development of management zones should be grounded in science, crafted by FWP bear biologists and managers, and informed by the varied interests of the public. Therefore, we hope the Council will refrain from being geographically explicit in guiding principle number 9. Perhaps guiding principle 9 can be modified to simply acknowledge management efforts may vary geographically and a statewide planning process could specify questions around management protocol and prioritization of resources.

2) We believe that a successful statewide planning process would yield durable outcomes and decisions for the future management of bears in Montana. However, the plan will only be successful if all Montanans feel truly heard through the process. Your process as a council has been about learning from one another and hearing each other through difficult conversations on topics loaded with differences in values and worldviews. Perhaps your process has provided some insight into how to address these challenging

questions in a way that captures the wide range of perspectives held by Montanans. Therefore, we strongly encourage the Council to provide recommendations to FWP around potentially important elements of the process for building a statewide plan.
3) The Council should consider including a statement in your report that might ensure the continued utility of your work. For example, the Council could highlight your shared perspectives around the value of your collaborative effort, as well as the value of future public input in a statewide planning process. The Council, FWP, other agency partners, and the public have invested substantial time and energy into this process thus far. The Council should emphasize the potential value of this investment in yielding durable solutions. Perhaps this kind of statement from the Council could lend support for implementing your recommendations and ensuring they aren't undermined in the relevant decision-making forums.

Conflict prevention:
1) We recognize that with limited resources, some parts of Montana may remain unprepared for grizzly bear presence, and we appreciate the Council's attempts to ground your guiding principles in reality. However, we also encourage the Council to reframe guiding principle 15 to a more visionary/positive focus. With adequate resources, we have confidence that Montanans could rise to the challenge of living with grizzly bears. Along those lines, we hope the council will consider moving forward with recommendation 14 (within conflict prevention) and encourage FWP to work proactively in communities to prepare them for grizzly bear presence.
2) In recommendation C, within resource needs, we suggest highlighting the need for increased resources for not only conflict prevention tools themselves, but also for implementation of those tools and necessary maintenance.

Connectivity:
3) GYC is closely involved in wildlife and transportation issues and we urge the Council to provide a more specific recommendation relevant to potential Interstate impacts on connectivity between recovery zones. Montana Department of Transportation, FWP, and Montanans for Safe Wildlife Passage have made great progress in developing a collaborative structure and moving forward in planning around wildlife/transportation issues in the state. The council should acknowledge the important work already taking place on this issue. Additionally, recommendation 26 could encourage the Montana wildlife and transportation Statewide Steering Committee and statewide Data and Information Working group to consider the issue of grizzly bear connectivity explicitly in their work. Recommendation 26 could also encourage the Statewide Steering Committee to identify priority wildlife crossing locations and associated statewide funding needs.

Hunting:
4) GYC does not agree that a grizzly bear hunt has a necessary role in grizzly bear conservation and management, and we appreciate the Council's hard work to navigate the variety of values and opinions that come with this challenging topic. In both Council statements in consideration of hunting (pro and anti), we see substantial blending of values and facts. We strongly encourage the Council to disentangle those for both the pro and anti-hunting statements. We do not believe it is the responsibility of the Council to determine when or if a hunt should occur, but rather provide the sideboards and considerations that should inform a hunting decision. We suggest a path forward that may help find consensus for the Council: Break the hunting portion of the report into three sections: 1) value considerations for and against hunting, 2) the facts about the role hunting can or cannot play, and 3) potentially important criteria for if a hunt were to take place. For section 3, GYC strongly encourages the council to add to your existing guidelines that a potential hunt should not occur in important connectivity areas between ecosystems.

GYC is committed to working with communities in Montana to put many of these recommendations into place and we welcome a future opportunity to weigh in on the development of a statewide plan. We are confident the work of this Council will provide a crucial foundation to any future effort around crafting more specific conservation and management direction for grizzly bears in Montana. We will work to ensure that your work on this Council remains a lasting guiding document for the future management of bears. Thank you for your hard work to build Montana solutions that will keep grizzly bears alive, people safe, and livelihoods in place.

Sincerely,

Brooke S. Shifrin
Wildlife Program Associate
Greater Yellowstone Coalition

#175

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:41:29 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:42:02 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:32
IP Address:	13.52.33.185

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Rebekah Skoog

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly recovery is important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana:

Public education on the importance of Grizzlies to our community and its ecosystem.

Rebekah Skoog

#176

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:42:19 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:42:41 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:21
IP Address:	13.52.33.185

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Q1

Name (optional):

Adrianna Rothenbuecher

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly recovery is important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana:
Both genetic and demographic connectivity between grizzly bear populations are critical for long-term recovery.
Coexistence with grizzlies and prevention of conflicts between bears and people, and bears and livestock
More ambitious goals for recovery, Grizzlies only occupy a tiny fraction of their former habitat; with the challenges of climate change and a growing human population
No trophy hunting of grizzlies now or in the future
A plan that does NOT recommend that new lines be drawn on a map where bears can and can?t be, or where they are deemed unimportant and where relocation or killing of bears is prioritized

Adrianna Rothenbuecher

#177

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:42:50 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:43:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:31
IP Address: 13.52.33.185

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Dan Struble

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly recovery is important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana:

Both genetic and demographic connectivity between grizzly bear populations are critical for long-term recovery.
Coexistence with grizzlies and prevention of conflicts between bears and people, and bears and livestock
More ambitious goals for recovery, Grizzlies only occupy a tiny fraction of their former habitat; with the challenges of climate change and a growing human population
No trophy hunting of grizzlies now or in the future
A plan that does NOT recommend that new lines be drawn on a map where bears can and can?t be, or where they are deemed unimportant and where relocation or killing of bears is prioritized

#178

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:43:42 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:44:17 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:34
IP Address:	13.52.33.185

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Deborah Hanson

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly recovery is important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana:

It has been a great journey for the last 50 years to see the Grizzly Bear make its comback. To nurture it's healthy population we need to ensure connectivity between grizzly bear populations for the long term. We need to ensure coexistence between bears, people, livestock. And we strongly are opposed to trophy hunting, it is not a tool to continue the challenges of a healthy grizzly bear population.

#179

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:44:32 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:44:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:13
IP Address: 13.52.33.185

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Q1

Name (optional):

Jennifer Nitz

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Grizzly recovery is critical to Montana.
Both genetic and demographic connectivity between grizzly bear populations are critical for long-term recovery.
Coexistence with grizzlies and prevention of conflicts between bears and people, and bears and livestock
Grizzlies only occupy a tiny fraction of their former habitat; due to the challenges of climate change and a growing human population
There can be no trophy hunting of grizzlies now or in the future

#180

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:44:50 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:45:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:33
IP Address: 13.52.33.185

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Q1

Name (optional):

Susan McClure

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly recovery is important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana:

I want Grizzlies protected. Enough of them die from human stupidness as it is being killed by motorized vehicles or by hunters or by people leaving food/garbage accessible.

I want protected corridors for migration of grizzlies as well as protected habitat.

There should be pay available to ranchers who can prove that a grizzly was responsible for the death of livestock.

I want fines and punishments for people who attract grizzlies or any wildlife by being irresponsible with attractants. I want fines and punishments for hunters or others who kill a grizzly.

I want grizzlies to be a part of our landscape in Montana always. I do not want to see their numbers decrease.

#181

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:45:30 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:46:03 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:33
IP Address:	13.52.33.185

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Q1

Name (optional):

Jennifer Swearingen

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly recovery is important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana:
Please clearly establish that trophy hunting is not an acceptable option now or in the future.
Please provide for greater connectivity in order to support genetic viability.
Strengthen efforts to reduce human-caused mortality of grizzly bears.
Reinforce the importance of grizzly bears? status as a critically important keystone species essential to the health of the entire ecosystem.

#182

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:49:04 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:49:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:14
IP Address: 13.52.33.185

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Q1

Name (optional):

Lilli Gernert

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly recovery is important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana:
Both genetic and demographic connectivity between grizzly bear populations are critical for long-term recovery.
Coexistence with grizzlies and prevention of conflicts between bears and people, and bears and livestock
More ambitious goals for recovery, Grizzlies only occupy a tiny fraction of their former habitat; with the challenges of climate change and a growing human population
No trophy hunting of grizzlies now or in the future
A plan that does NOT recommend that new lines be drawn on a map where bears can and can?t be, or where they are deemed unimportant and where relocation or killing of bears is prioritized

#183

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:49:22 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:49:51 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:28
IP Address:	13.52.33.185

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Q1

Name (optional):

Linda Mcdevitt

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly recovery is important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana: Coexistence with grizzlies anf prevention of conflicts between bears and people and livestock, Genetic and land connections to allow for grizzly long-term recovery, and no trophy hunting of grizzlies.

#184

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:48:59 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:51:26 PM
Time Spent:	00:02:27
IP Address:	208.102.184.248

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am totally against this. We must protect our Grizzly Bears not hunt them....There are to few left and they are a big reason people head to our National Parks to wildlife watch! This would be a big mistake....I also thought they are on the Endangered Species List....Am I missing something????? NO NO NO

#185

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:50:17 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:52:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:50
IP Address: 13.52.33.185

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Paul Rana

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly recovery is important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana: Acknowledgement that life is not a function of political whim, but an inextricable part of our fabric in this state. We contemporary inhabitants can only shepherd the ways that have existed for millenia. We survive because the Grizzly survives, and all that has preceded our short blip of existence. Unraveling our contemporary needs and land uses at the expense of the those ages old needs and uses by prehistoric peoples, native populations and their founding in and of the land and creatures, risks failure of our current transient actions that degrade, restrict, desensitize, constrict, reduce, and inhibit the health and life blood of all our endangered species, but particularly the Grizzly.

#186

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:52:11 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:52:34 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:23
IP Address:	13.52.33.185

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Sally Dziedzic

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly recovery is important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana: Please protect our Grizzly bears.

#187

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:52:38 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:56:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:40
IP Address: 13.52.33.185

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Jazmine Raymond

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly recovery is important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana:
Both genetic and demographic connectivity between grizzly bear populations are critical for long-term recovery.
Coexistence with grizzlies and prevention of conflicts between bears and people, and bears and livestock
More ambitious goals for recovery, Grizzlies only occupy a tiny fraction of their former habitat; with the challenges of climate change and a growing human population
No trophy hunting of grizzlies now or in the future
A plan that does NOT recommend that new lines be drawn on a map where bears can and can?t be, or where they are deemed unimportant and where relocation or killing of bears is prioritized
Thank you for your consideration.

#188

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:56:32 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:56:52 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:20
IP Address:	13.52.33.185

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

James Bailey

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly recovery is important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana:
To provide for lasting connectivity, and end isolation of the Greater Yellowstone population, bears must be reestablished in new areas between the northern population and the GYE population. I see no active management to reestablish any population in the intervening areas, not any discussion of this critical issue. Current Montana plans will "allow" natural reoccupation and "expect" it will occur. Hope is not a plan! Lets put this issue on the public table.

#189

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:56:56 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:57:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:32
IP Address: 13.52.33.185

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Q1

Name (optional):

Gail Richardson

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

John and I have lived with grizzlies in the GYE for 40 years; we have been thrilled to see many bears, and we value the Great Bear as part of our biodiversity and natural heritage. As Montanans grizzly recovery is important to us. The final proposal for grizzly management in Montana should reflect:

Co-existence, connectivity and conflict prevention/resolution

The cultural and spiritual relevance of the Great Bear for our tribes

Reaching out to the public and educating using enhanced funding and resources; resources must go to wherever most needed.

Recognition of the importance of genetic and demographic connectivity; minimizing relocation or killing of bears anywhere in MT

Finally, we feel these recommendations must specify NO TROPHY HUNTING. This type of hunting is unethical, unnecessary and against the wishes of vast majorities of Montanans and Americans. Our state animal must be protected from this scourge of a by-gone era.

Thank you for submitting the strongest possible protections for our Great Bear.

We hope you will do the right thing and send the Governor these strong recommendations.

#190

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:57:33 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:58:03 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:30
IP Address:	13.52.33.185

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Charles Wright

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly recovery is important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana:
- Recognition of the spiritual and cultural importance of grizzlies to Montana's Tribal nations
- Increasing public outreach, education and understanding about grizzly bears
- New ideas for increased funding and resources for griz management
- Many good ideas to prevent conflicts between bears and people
- Coexistence and conflict prevention between bears and people, and bears and livestock as the long-term solution to living, working and recreating in grizzly country
- More ambitious goals for recovery, including both demographic and genetic connectivity between grizzly populations in Montana

Here's what I do NOT want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana:
- Recommendations that would create new areas where grizzlies are deemed less important to connectivity and overall population health and could be more "strictly managed" including prioritizing relocation or the killing of bears
- Prioritizing resources to specific communities, particularly the Eastern Front of the Northern Rockies. Resources should go where they are most needed in a dynamic landscape, not set in stone
- The proposal fails to recommend against a grizzly trophy hunt
- Recommendations that do not recognize the importance of both demographic and genetic connectivity to achieving real recovery

#191

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:58:10 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:58:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:37
IP Address: 13.52.33.185

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Nancy Kessler

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly recovery is important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana:

1 Both genetic and demographic connectivity between grizzly bear populations, which are critical for long-term recovery.
2 Coexistence with grizzlies and prevention of conflicts between bears and people, and bears and livestock
3 More ambitious goals for recovery, as grizzlies only occupy a tiny fraction of their former habitat and are negatively affected by the challenges of climate change and a growing human population
4 No trophy hunting of grizzlies now or in the future
5 A plan that does NOT recommend that new lines be drawn on a map where bears can and can?t be, or where they are deemed unimportant and where relocation or killing of bears is prioritized

#192

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:58:54 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:59:14 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:20
IP Address:	13.52.33.185

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Marya Grathwohl

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a Montanan, grizzly recovery is important to me. Here's what I want in the final proposal for grizzly management in Montana:
1. genetic and demographics connectivity between grizzly bear populations;
2. coexistence with grizzlies and prevention of conflicts between bears and people, and bears and livestock, through methods that protect the grizzlies;
3. more ambitious goals for recovery;
4. NO trophy hunting!
5. a plan that does NOT recommend that new lines be drawn on a map where bears can and can't be, or where relocation or killing of bears is prioritized.

Protect our bearrs in every way possible, please.

#193

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:59:28 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:59:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:21
IP Address: 13.52.33.185

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Charlotte Heldstab

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Grizzlies are a national treasure and need to be protected in all states where they live, especially Montana. People coming to see them bring in lots of tourist dollars across the state. They also should never be hunted and it's wrong to even talk about hunting them. A ton more education needs to be done to help those people not used to grizzlies, learn to live with them. How many people in MT are badly hurt by cattle each year, how about horses, what about dogs ? Grizzlies are not out to hurt you nor eat your children. One of the most important things to remember is that grizzlies are native to North America while cattle and sheep are NOT. Native animals therefore have more rights than non-native species ! How much trouble would grizzlies get into if we did not have the imported cattle and sheep in our state ? How much trouble would they get into if people would be responsible for keeping their property clean ? Keeping chickens fenced with electric fences and all bird seed stored away until winter ? Grizzlies lived in Montana before our European ancestors did. They have every right to live their full lives in safety and peace.

#194

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Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I have been following the progress of the Governor's Grizzly Advisory Council (GBAC) since its inception, as the GBAC nears its August 31st deadline to make recommendations on grizzly bear management in Montana, I would like the opportunity to comment on the final draft recommendations before they are finalized and sent to FWP and the Governor's Office.

I request a minimum two-week formal comment period on the GBAC's final recommendations, as well as widespread notice to the public that the final draft of the recommendations is available for review and of the public comment period. As deliberations over the recommendations will continue at the GBAC's final meeting on July 21-22, the formal comment period should run for at least one week following posting of the recommendations on the GBAC website that encompass the July meeting's deliberations. As a concerned and engaged citizen, I feel that failing to provide a comment period on the final draft undermines the accountability and transparency of the GBAC's process.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request

#195

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Q1

Name (optional):

Julia Altemus

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

August 1, 2020

Governor’s Grizzly Bear Advisory Council
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Helena, MT 59601

RE: Consolidated Draft Recommendations

Dear Council,

The mill manufacturing members of the Montana Wood Products Association would like to take this opportunity to comment on the proposed consolidated draft recommendations pertaining to the management of Montana’s grizzly bear populations.

Since the grizzly bear was listed as protected by the Endangered Species Act in 1975, considerable progress has been made in restoring once declining populations.

For a species to be delisted from the ESA, the species must meet 5 criteria:

- Is there a present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of species' habitat or range?
- Is the species subject to overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes?
- Is disease or predation a factor?
- Are there inadequate existing regulatory mechanisms in place outside the ESA (taking-into-account the efforts by the States and other organizations to protect the species or habitat)?
- Are other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence?

Notably, Montana has been at the forefront of grizzly bear management and conservation dating back more than a century. Over the years, wildlife and resource managers have been working in concert and diligently to aide in the bears recovery. Today, Montana has the largest grizzly bear population in the lower 48 states.

The conservation and management of the bear from past to future methods offers an opportunity to make the goal of recovery and delisting a reality.
Once a grizzly bear population is delisted, the “Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines,” will be applied to management activities under the guidance of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks agency.

Grizzly bear populations in Montana have grown exponentially. As an example, the best available scientific information shows that the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) grizzly bear population has the estimated numbers and distribution of reproductive individuals to be self-sustaining. Since the grizzly bear was listed, the NCDE population has substantially increased in size to more than double the recovery plan goal of 391 bears. Costello et al. (2016) evaluated occupancy of the 23 bear management units in the NCDE by females with offspring during 2004 to 2014. Using the six-year running tally as set forth in the recovery plan USFWS (1993), the authors documented full occupancy of the recovery zone starting in 2009 and continuing through 2014 (Costello et al., 2016).

As the grizzly bear is a federally protected species, with identified populations in all but one of Montana’s national forests, bear management within Bear Management Units (BMUs) and Bears Outside Recovery Zones (BORZs) are guided by Forest Plans and Forest Plan Amendments.

As in the case of the Flathead Forest Plan of 2018, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determined that adverse effects on individual grizzly bears as a result of the land management plan will not negatively impact the recovery of the NCDE grizzly bear population. Further, the USFWS stated their expectation that direction in the land management plan will result in conditions that support grizzly bear use of National Forest System lands in the NCDE.

Considering the large size of the NCDE recovery zone, the favorable land management direction within the recovery zone, and the robust status of the NCDE grizzly bear population, adverse effects on grizzly bears as a result of implementing the land management plan would not have negative effects on the status of the NCDE grizzly bear population. Therefore, the USFWS concluded that the land management plan is not reasonably expected to reduce appreciably the likelihood of both the survival and recovery of NCDE grizzly bears (USFWS, 2017a, pp. III-78-83).

Even though Forest Plans recognize land management, including timber harvest, will not adversely impact bear populations, we often find the presence of bears or their range within a timber sale unit, is a catalyst for litigation. Litigation in Region One, pertaining to grizzly bears, has all but stymied and stalled resource management for years.

Cabinet/Yaak and North Continental Divide Ecosystem grizzly bear recovery zones, are two of six grizzly bear recovery zones identified in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (USFWS 1993). Located in northwestern Montana and northern Idaho, the two ecosystems encompass 12,220 square miles of habitat. Portions of the Kootenai, Idaho Panhandle, Lolo, Flathead, Helena, and Lewis and Clark National Forests are included in the recovery areas. Additionally, some state, private, Bureau of Land Management, Glacier National Park, Flathead Indian Reservation, and Blackfeet Indian Reservation lands overlap the recovery zones. Of the 776,460 acres outside of the recovery zone in the Selkirk and Cabinet/Yaak, 726,528 acres are on NSF lands.

There are numerous scientific, social, and economic justifications as to why the grizzly bear in Montana should be delisted. We should all be celebrating an ESA success!

Therefore, we do not believe the Consolidated Draft Recommendations go far enough. The goal should be delisting. Education and outreach, conflict prevention, bear distribution, relocation and connectivity and resources are important, however the Council cannot ignore the fact that the state Fish Wildlife and Parks department will have jurisdiction over managing bear populations and interaction with people. Again, it is extremely important that the state exhibits adequate regulatory mechanisms that demonstrate the ability continue to protect the bear and its habitat, while reducing instances of bear/human conflicts. For the Council to have a complete and robust set of recommendations for the Governor, it must tackle the role of hunting.

Montana has a history of hunters being on the forefront of wildlife conservation and management. As grizzly bear populations continue to grow and habitats expand, finding solutions to challenges facing habitat and connectivity, encroachment on working landscapes, public safety, and controlling populations, while still maintaining the viability of the bear will require state and federal agencies, tribes and the public (including hunters) to continue to work in concert.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Julia Altemus

Julia Altemus
Executive Director
Montana Wood Products Association
PO Box 1967
Missoula, MT 59806
406-241-7047
julia@montanaforests.com

#196

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Q1

Name (optional):

Christine Weinheimer

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

As a long-time resident of Montana, I greatly value and appreciate our native wildlife, including grizzly bears. I don't think they should be killed for a trophy, especially considering that their population here is not fully recovered, and their survival is linked to conditions that fluctuate like food sources. I am disappointed that the Council did not reach consensus opposing a grizzly hunt, and strongly encourage you to rethink this position.

I do support the recommendations for increasing public outreach, education, and awareness of grizzly bears, as well as its recognition of the need for increased funding and resources for non-lethal conflict prevention.

In the absence of any scientific evidence supporting hunting for population control, and with plenty of science showing that a hunt would be detrimental, recommending against a hunt is the right choice.

I'm sure there are some trophy hunting, gun rights, and ranching interest groups advocating strongly for a hunt, but I am certain they represent a small minority of Montana citizens. I believe that most Montanans respect and take pride in our large mammals, carnivores and herbivores alike, and want to ensure their survival in the future.

#197

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Q1

Name (optional):

The Humane Society of the United States

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Grizzly Bear Advisory Council
Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
1420 E. 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

Members of the Grizzly Bear Advisory Council,

The Humane Society of the United States, on behalf of its members and supporters in Montana and across the country, submits these comments on the Grizzly Bear Advisory Council's "Consolidated Draft Recommendations" dated July 24, 2020. We appreciate the opportunity to comment, and enthusiastically support the Recommendations' support for conflict prevention, education, and the use of non-lethal methods to address conflicts.

We are, however, disappointed and seriously concerned that GBAC has not recommended against grizzly bear hunting. GBAC's Guiding Principle 8 states that "the best available science should inform decisions in all aspects of grizzly bear management and conservation." In the spirit of this principle, we strongly urge GBAC to adopt a consensus recommendation against hunting grizzly bears. The best available science shows that hunting is an ineffective tool to address human and livestock-related conflict; hampers coexistence efforts by reducing social tolerance; and causes deleterious population-wide effects. Because there is no countervailing scientific rationale supporting grizzly bear hunting, we strongly urge GBAC to recommend against it.

1. Trophy Hunting is Ineffective at Addressing Human-Bear Conflicts

The draft Recommendations correctly recognize that "hunting is not likely to be an effective tool for conflict prevention or reduction." Yet its "Considerations supporting the role of hunting" contradict this statement, confusingly and inaccurately noting that hunting can "help minimize conflict" and "provide[s] a valuable tool to manage grizzly bears…" These mixed messages should be reconciled by removing the suggestion that hunting is an effective tool to address conflict, because the best available science shows that it is not.

The supposition that hunting removes particular "problem" bears is contrary to both common sense and the best available science, which indicates that hunting has little to do with stopping the human habituation of bears – as bears come near to humans in the years when there are food failures (Elfstrom et al. 2014, Obbard et al. 2014, Artelle et al. 2016). Indeed, the scientific literature is conclusive that trophy hunting is not an appropriate response to human-bear conflicts (Artelle et al. 2016). Obbard et al. (2014) write: "We found no significant correlations between harvest and subsequent HBC [human-bear conflicts]. Although it may be intuitive to assume that harvesting more bears should reduce HBC [human-bear conflicts], empirical support for this assumption is lacking despite considerable research (Garshelis 1989, Treves and Karanth 2003, Huygens et al. 2004, Tavss 2005, Treves 2009, Howe et al. 2010, Treves et al. 2010)." Since that journal article published, more articles issued, (Barrett et al. 2014, Pienaar et al. 2015, Artelle et al. 2016) providing further evidence against trophy hunting as an effective response to human-bear conflicts.

2. Trophy Hunting Seasons Reduce Social Tolerance

The draft Recommendations inaccurately state, in the "Considerations supporting the role of hunting" section, that hunting grizzly bears can "help…promote coexistence." In fact, the best available science shows that allowing hunting is detrimental to coexistence because it reduces social tolerance. This statement should therefore be removed.
Leading scientific research shows that allowing hunting can hamper coexistence efforts by reducing residents' tolerance of native carnivores. A landmark series of studies examined public attitudes toward gray wolves in Wisconsin over a thirteen-year period. (Treves 2009, Treves and Bruskotter 2014, Hogberg et al 2015; Browne-Nunez et al 2015). These researchers found that social tolerance of wolves declined each time policy changes made it easier for state managers or the general public to kill wolves. This included the trophy hunting, trapping, and hounding seasons enacted following federal delisting in 2012. Even as hunters and trappers were allowed to legally take wolves for the first time in decades, residents of Wisconsin wolf range became more hostile toward wolves.

3. Trophy Hunting Increases Sexual Segregation and Sexually Selected Infanticide, Causing Population-Wide Harm and Increasing Human-Bear Conflict by Driving Bears Toward Suboptimal Habitat Nearer to Humans

The draft Recommendations should account for the significant research demonstrating that trophy hunting native carnivores causes deleterious population-wide effects by destabilizing social structures, leading to “super-additive” mortality and increasing the incidence of human-bear and livestock-bear conflicts.

Trophy hunting of older, male breeding carnivores is widely accepted to result in increased sexually selected infanticide (SSI) of cubs by non-fathers, sexually segregated habitat use by females (females avoid new non-fathers), and reduced forging and reproductive success of females - by causing turnover of breeding males. This phenomenon has been studied for a variety of carnivores: for North American grizzly bears (Wielgus and Bunnell 1994b, a, Wielgus et al. 2001); for European brown bears (Swenson et al. 1997, Swenson et al. 2001a, Swenson et al. 2001b, Swenson 2003); for cougars (Puma concolor) (Lambert et al. 2006, Robinson et al. 2008, Cooley et al. 2009a, Cooley et al. 2009b, Wielgus et al. 2013, Keehner et al. 2015a, Keehner et al. 2015b); for African lions (Panthera leo) (Packer et al. 2009, Packer et al. 2011); for African leopards (Panthera pardus) (Balme and AR 2012, Balme et al. 2013).

Specifically with regard to Ursus arctos, Wielgus et al. (2001), Wielgus (2002), Swenson et al. (1997, 2001a, b) and Swenson (2003) demonstrated that trophy hunting of resident male North American grizzly bears and European brown bears (Ursus arctos arctos) corresponds with increased male turnover (compensatory immigration), increased sexually selected infanticide, and reduced female population growth. For protected park grizzly bears, Wielgus (2002) showed that trophy hunting of park fathers outside of protected parks resulted in increased infanticide, sexually segregated habitat use, and reduced female reproductive success within parks - because of increased turnover of fathers in the parks.

Because of these effects (infanticide, sexual segregation), hunting mortality of grizzly bears is not compensatory like in traditional game animals such as deer and elk (increased hunting = decreased natural mortality + increased reproduction = increased population growth = population stability). Rather, hunting mortality of grizzlies is “super-additive” or “multiplicative” (Wielgus et al. 2013, Gosselin et al. 2015) whereby increased hunting = increased natural mortality (infanticide) + decreased reproduction (sexual segregation) = decreased population growth = population decline.

Compounding this harm, females with cubs generally avoid males as a strategy of avoiding sexually-selected infanticide, often leading them to choose suboptimal habitats, including habitats in closer proximity to humans, leading to increased human-bear conflict. Grizzly bears’ social organization is despotic, meaning that adult males claim the best territories (such as most rugged terrain to avoid hunters) (Elfström et al. 2014, Steyaert et al. 2016). Adult males pose safety risks to both subadult bears and females with young (Elfström et al. 2014, Steyaert et al. 2016). Subadults and females with young-of-the-year cubs are more likely to come near human habitations to avoid adult males (Elfström et al. 2014, Steyaert et al. 2016). Solitary adult females and adult males avoid human presence; subadults come to human areas because they want to avoid intraspecific aggression while dispersing; authors believe they seek out human habitations primarily for safety reasons rather than to obtain food (Elfström et al. 2014). This also affects their diet quality and reduces their reproductive potential. (McDonough and Christ 2012, Gosselin et al. 2015.) Avoidance of males as a mechanism to avoid sexually-selected infanticide also ultimately leads to lower fecundity. (Gosselin et al. 2015.)

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the best available science shows that hunting is an ineffective management tool that will detract from the laudable goal of promoting coexistence with grizzly bears. We strongly urge GBAC to recommend against opening a trophy hunting season for these reasons.

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#198

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Q1

Name (optional):

Stephanie Adams

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

August 4, 2020

Governor's Grizzly Bear
Advisory Council
1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Re: Montana Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council Consolidated Draft Recommendations

Dear Members of the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council,

On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), we appreciate the opportunity to submit the following comments for consideration related to the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council's draft consolidated recommendations. We want to thank the members of the Council once again for the time, energy, and thoughtfulness that you have put into developing recommendations for grizzly bear management in Montana.

NPCA's mission is to protect and enhance America's national park system for present and future generations. NPCA and our more than 1.2 million members and supporters have a long history of advocating for the conservation and recovery of grizzly bears as valued wildlife in Glacier, Yellowstone, and Grand Teton national parks and across the broader ecosystem. With staff based in Whitefish and Bozeman, NPCA is dedicated to working with communities and wildlife managers to find commonsense solutions that ensure the long-term conservation of the grizzly bear while limiting disruptions to how people live, work, and recreate in the region.

NPCA is concerned with the changes that have occurred between the version of the draft recommendations released in early June and the current version. After almost a year of discussions and draft formulating, the addition of Guiding Principle 9 that carves out a segment of the grizzly bear geographic distribution for special management runs counter to the broader management paradigm that the Council has been advancing: seeking collaborative ways to reduce conflict and support communities that could experience grizzly bears across western Montana. The shift from focusing on tools and approaches to, at the last minute adding in the problematic management approach that bears should automatically be managed in a different manner just for being in certain areas undermines the progress the Council had been making towards developing management recommendations that set Montana up for success. Guiding Principle 9 targets grizzly bears east of the Rocky Mountain Front and North of Interstate 90. Connecting grizzly bears in Montana depends bears from the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) moving north of Interstate 90. NPCA urges the Council to remove this last-minute addition as well as the related management recommendations.

NPCA Comments on the Draft Recommendations:
Many of the comments that we submitted for the June draft of the recommendations still apply and we hope the Council will review both sets. NPCA would like to raise the following feedback specific to the draft consolidated recommendations developed by the Council:

Vison and Guiding Principles: Once again we would like to commend the Council for developing a balanced vision statement that if supported with the necessary tools, resources, and policies will ensure grizzly bear management remains successful in Montana. The Council's vison of "a fully recovered grizzly population in the four recovery zones located in Montana and landscapes in-between that accommodate grizzly bear presence and connectivity while maintaining the safety and quality of life for those that live, work, and play in Montana" should form the foundation of a statewide management plan.

The Council should ensure that the final recommendations are in-line with this vision statement. NPCA is concerned that some of the new additions such as the management recommendation that "grizzly bears outside of established recovery and connectivity zones

should be managed more strictly than those inside the zones" do not align with the Council's vision. The vision strikes a balance by creating space for bear presence on the land outside of the four identified recovery zones while ensuring a recognition that this presence must be balanced with human activities on the land. This balance will be achieved by preventative conflict reduction actions, community engagement, and addressing conflicts as they arise, not by limiting bear distribution or preemptively creating areas where bears are managed in a different manner.

We appreciate that the Council recognizes that grizzly bears are already a part of life for many communities in the region and these communities are finding ways to reduce conflicts. Nevertheless, as bears move through and into regions that have not had grizzlies as part of the landscape for decades, they may utilize whatever food or habitat is available and occasionally this may result in conflict. Fortunately, as we see in many Montana communities, when measures to prevent bears from obtaining human-related foods are combined with thoughtful planning, responsive management, and community engagement, bears and people can and do coexist.

NPCA recommends that the Council modify Guiding Principle 15 "There are parts of Montana that are unprepared for the presence of grizzly bears and will remain so as resources are prioritized within existing recovery zones and the landscapes in between" to guide management to address this need rather than leave it as a barrier. The Council should consider the following edit: "Thus far, resources to reduce conflict and better prepare communities for the presence of grizzly bears have been focused within existing recovery zones and some of the landscapes in between. The council recommends utilizing new resources and some existing resources in areas of Montana that are currently unprepared for the presence of grizzly bears, thereby preparing them to coexist with grizzly bears in the future".

The exact abundance and distribution of grizzlies will be somewhat fluid as changes occur on the landscape, climate change modifies habitat, and conflict prevention/mitigation creates opportunities for dispersal. Montana will always need to ensure grizzly bear populations remain at levels sufficient to prevent the need for relisting under the Endangered Species Act. NPCA urges the Council to not provide recommendations related to abundance and distribution, but rather focus on recommendations and a vision that is proactive in reducing and mitigating conflicts no matter the abundance and distribution of the species in the state.

Education and Outreach: NPCA appreciates the numerous recommendations that the Council has developed to expand and increase coordination to enhance engagement and outreach related to grizzly bears. Continuing to find ways to create unified outreach and education will further increase the efficacy of programs within the region. Increased coordination amongst the agencies and entities that engage in outreach and education, as well as coordinated messaging will further increase the effectiveness of these efforts. We also support the establishment of an expanded comprehensive Bear Aware program that encourages communities to be proactive as bears return to the landscape as well as the creation of a bear education coordinator position.

Recommendation 7: "Support bear managers as they create reliable and easy reporting of bear sightings near human settlements, downs, and cities." The Council should further clarify the purpose or goal of this recommendation. Is the reporting system so that communities can be better prepared in "real time" for a bear that is nearby? This recommendation should further the ability of communities and managers to prepare for the presence of a bear rather than simply track where bears are moving.

Recommendation 12: "Provide a bear identification and safety video including proper use of bear spray and couple it with the bear identification test online." The Council should clarify the purpose or goal of this recommendation. The current bear identification test is aimed at reducing hunter misidentification of grizzly bears during black bear season. Is the goal so that non-hunters can also tell the difference between the two species? If so, that should be clarified with an explanation of how this could help reduce conflicts.

Conflict Prevention: Across the region, communities, landowners, and bears coexist. However, as with many species conflicts can arise. Whenever humans or livestock come into conflict with bears, management action by a bear management specialist should always be part of the solution. The management response must be consistent between the recovery ecosystems and the areas of potential connectivity in between. This will create consistency in how bears are managed on the landscape while providing managers with the flexibility needed to address each situation.

Recommendation 16. C: "Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and relevant agencies should continue to work with partners to research and closely monitor impacts to grizzly bears from road densities and other human activity on our public and state lands". NPCA appreciates that the Council recognizes that road densities and other activities can have an impact on grizzly bears and could increase

chances for conflict. In addition to researching and monitoring, NPCA urges the Council to modify the recommendation to also include a push for agencies to work together and with stakeholders to mitigate these impacts. This recommendation should be similar to 16.d which looks to address the impacts from increased recreation to prevent conflicts through a mix of actionable items and outreach.

Conflict Response and Protocols: Bear management specialists have and will continue to play an essential role in successful bear management and conservation. In addition to the recommendation (18) that the legislature should “make bear management specialists fully funded FTE positions included in permanent base funding, and each should be provided with year-round technicians”, the Council should also modify the recommendation to include the need for more bear management specialists to better address needs on a broader landscape.

As bears move into new habitat, the ability of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks staff to be responsive will have a large impact on where bears can successfully be on the landscape. Funding additional bear management specialists in key geographies to support residents and communities in preventing, reducing, and addressing conflicts with grizzlies is a key part of successful bear management. Establishing additional boots on the ground will require funding and support for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Grizzly Bear Distribution, Relocation, and Connectivity: Once again, we encourage the Council to not focus on placing limits or defining where distribution should be tolerated, but instead should focus on how managers and communities can work together to reduce conflicts when bears are in an area. Bears should not be prevented from using habitat unless conflicts become insurmountable. This does not mean managers should not be responsive or that bears that are causing conflict should not be removed. Rather management should be consistent across the landscape and allow managers to be adaptive to specific situations. Recommendation 18. E: “Grizzly bears outside established recovery and connectivity zones should be managed more strictly than those inside the zones”, does not create the consistency that the Council has been advocating through other recommendations. The Council should remove this recommendation and ensure that bear management specialists continue to have the flexibility to manage bears that they have currently.

Changing climates and thus changing habitat conditions along with increases in human distribution and land use could all have impacts on how bears use the landscape and what areas are important for connectivity. While it is important for managers to continue to identify areas where connectivity is likely to occur to help direct resources and community engagement, limits or special management should not prevent a bear from using other habitat if conflicts are not occurring. It is shortsighted of this Council to prioritize limiting bear distribution rather than creating management that can be responsive to community needs and evolving situations on the ground.

It is problematic that the Council has introduced recommendations at the last-minute that seek to define where bears will and will not be tolerated on the landscape. This is a significant management change that should have been publicly discussed earlier in the process.

Recommendation 30: “FWP should, in consultation with relevant entities, identify areas that are not ‘critical to the long-term viability’ of grizzly bears and prioritize relocation or removal of management bears in these areas”. This recommendation should be fully removed. Conflict should be addressed in a consistent way across the landscape no matter where the bear is located and should provide bear managers some flexibility.

Management of all conflict bear situations should emphasize removal or securing the cause of the conflict, when possible; or management and education actions to limit such conflicts. These responses should recognize landowner needs while helping to remove or secure the cause of the conflict when possible. If conflict does occur, the management response should include outreach and assistance to limit future conflicts. Recommendations for conflict bear standards:

- Bears displaying unnatural aggression should be removed from the population.
- Bears displaying natural aggression should not be removed unless management authorities feel that the circumstances warrant removal. This decision should be made by management authorities after considering the cause, location, and severity of the incident.
- Bears displaying food conditioning and/or habituation should either be relocated or removed based on specific details of the incident. This judgment should be made by management authorities after considering the cause, location, and severity of the incident.
- Bears could be preemptively moved when they are in areas where they are likely to come into conflict with site-specific human activities, but only as a last resort. Preemptive moves should not be used to preclude or manipulate bear distribution.
- Bears should be relocated as many times as judged prudent by management authorities.
- If a bear is preying on livestock grazing on public lands through a grazing permit, the bear should not be lethally removed unless

- If a bear is preying on livestock grazing on public lands through a grazing permit, the bear should not be lethally removed unless it has already been relocated at least once.

Connectivity: The Council should modify Recommendation 24: “Any new or existing agreements regarding population augmentation should be evaluated on a regular basis” to note that this should not replace the continued emphasis on promoting natural connectivity. The best chance for long-term connectivity success is natural connectivity- when bears are able to find their own way between populations. Agencies have tried to achieve genetic connectivity for species through human-assisted relocation -physically capturing and moving a bear between ecosystems. This approach in higher bear density ecosystems (i.e., the GYE) has proven to be less effective, resulting in a reduced survival rate of bears that have been forcibly placed in unfamiliar habitat and bears that attempt to return to the area they came from. Such relocation efforts are also subject to changing political commitments and shifting funding priorities, making them unreliable as a long-term method to achieve connectivity. This does not mean bears should not be relocated in adjacent regions to prevent conflict or that efforts to augment lower density populations such as the Cabinet-Yaak population should not continue, but efforts to ensure genetic connectivity between the GYE and NCDE populations should prioritize natural connectivity.

NPCA urges the Council to not use the term connectivity zones, but rather focus on continued efforts to identify areas of likely connectivity. Within wildlife management, zones often imply areas of tolerance or lack of tolerance and could lead to less resources or engagement for the areas outside the designated “zone” even if bears are in that area. By using research and information on grizzly bear movements, scientists have developed predictive models of where grizzly bears might be expected to move within Montana. These models suggest that male grizzly bear movement between the two ecosystems could result in a variety of potential routes. However, it is important to recognize that as with most wildlife, bear movement may not strictly follow predicted pathways and managers anticipate that occasional bear movement could occur almost anywhere across western Montana. It is therefore important that community outreach and conflict prevention not be limited solely to “connectivity zones”, but rather be adaptive to how bears are using the landscape.

Resources: The success of grizzly bear management in Montana heavily depends on the availability of diverse and stable funding sources to support education and outreach as well as conflict prevention and mitigation. We appreciate that the Council recognizes this need and has developed a comprehensive set of recommendations of how to secure funding. Conservation groups have an important role to play in advocating for additional funding at both the state and federal level. NPCA is committed to working with managers and stakeholders to continue to advocate for increased funding.

From the significant role grizzlies play in the culture of Native Americans to the bear serving as Montana’s state mammal, grizzlies are part of what defines our identity in Montana. The species is also a draw that helps drive the region’s thriving tourism economy. We hope that your work will form the basis of the development of a new statewide bear management plan for Montana that creates a path forward for more coordinated bear management across the state. For grizzlies to thrive over the long-term there will need to be careful limits on their mortality, as well as management practices to ensure bears have access to important habitat and resources. Committing resources, planning, and community collaboration will help us move together toward the goal that is shared by many across the region- a grizzly population that is healthy and resilient enough to be here for our children and grandchildren. Thank you for considering our feedback.

Stephanie Adams,
Northern Rockies Associate Director

Sarah Lundstrum,
Glacier Program Manager

#199

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Vickie Edwards

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Recommendations regarding habitat connectivity should include the following:
1.) Involvement of land trust partners that work directly with private landowners in Montana.
2.) The committee should support incentive-based, private land conservation and conservation easements to protect open space for working landscapes. Protecting working lands = conservation of wildlife habitat and more connected populations

#200

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Thank you for your work. As a Montana resident, I've been excited to see the progress that the grizzly bear has made over the last several decades. In hopes of furthering that recovery, I thought that I would offer a couple of thoughts for your consideration.

First, I'm all about the safety of humans AND I applaud your vison of “a fully recovered grizzly population in the four recovery zones

Second, I encourage you to make decisions that further the natural dispersal of grizzly bears, rather than limiting their range.

Third, I appreciate your recommendations related to the need for, and encouragement of coordination and collaboration between communities and state, federal, and tribal wildlife managers to ensure consistency in raising awareness of how to live, work, and recreate in areas that have or could soon have grizzly bears.

Fourth, I think that Montana and the federal government should prioritize securing long-term sustainable funding to support efforts to prevent conflicts and better prepare communities to live with grizzly bears.

Thank you and be well!

#201

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Claudia Narcisco

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I've attended most of the Grizzly Bear Advisory Council meetings either in person or Zoom since October 2019. Early the first day I noted a couple of things from the 'principles and guidelines section: don't come to the table with preconceived notions and make sure agricultural community feels support. The first was violated as soon as the meeting was over when some council members bolted to visit with Secretary of Interior Bernhardt during an opportunistically timed visit to the Choteau/Augusta area arranged by Representative Gianforte. The second – support for the agricultural community is reflected in the July 23 Draft Recommendations (Draft). Not only had the politicization of the process begun from the onset, it was allowed to continue.

The opening to the preamble heralding the role of indigenous peoples reeks with irony. At both the December meeting in Missoula and the January meeting in Polson, representatives from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe (CSKT) and the Blackfeet Nation spoke of tolerance and cultural significance of the grizzly bear. Tony Incashola, traditional leader of the CSKT, invited to open the Polson meeting, said to NEVER kill a grizzly bear except in self-defense. Still, the Council couldn't come to consensus regarding no hunting, arguably the single most important issue for the tribes. To open the document heralding the 'essential' roles of indigenous peoples is at best disingenuous.

For the record, when as part of my public comment at the end of the Polson meeting I said that I was 'moved' by the sentiments of Mr. Incashola, and that I wished these were 'better reflected' on the Council, I was called a racist; a reverse racist might have been the term. From what I recall, both facilitators remained silent on this. If the Council as it says in the preamble, "respects and honors this long standing relationship and the traditional knowledge that continues to inform management and provide habitat for grizzly bears in Montana", it can do so by honoring the cultural significance of the grizzly bear to the tribes and limit if not eliminate killing of grizzly bear, let alone trophy hunting.

Instead, the Council includes an expanded section on Guidance around the Role of Hunting. The introduction to this section states the Council received a large number of comments on hunting, and that these "represented a large disparity of views". However, the content of the comments is not analyzed, reported, or the disparity of views of this topic otherwise synthesized, weighted, and disclosed. This is a serious shortcoming considering the over ten thousand comments the public invested in during this process. Such a content analysis would be a good indication of the Council's genuine interest in public involvement. I suggest that FWP provides a report or other assessment of the public's perspective on hunting as well as the other topics.

It should be made clear that hunting is not the only opportunity to 'take' grizzly bear. At the Polson meeting the council was given four 'scenarios' to role-play management response to conflict. One scenario involved a sub-adult male grizzly found with a dead calf in central Montana between the NCDE and GYE. With one dissenting vote, the Council group considered the sub-adult male expendable and to kill it. The FWP advisory group also decided to 'take' the bear, even though it could be on its way to 'connecting' the recovery ecosystems. By contrast, members of the public who were also given this scenario to discuss decided to relocate or monitor movement of the bear. It's my understanding that sub-adult males are the most likely to expand distribution in search of new home ranges. If sub-adult males are considered expendable then there is not much hope for connecting even existing recovery areas.
I question that the Council and FWP would consider a sub-adult male grizzly bear expendable, but not the calf. Anyone sitting at that table or in that room must exemplify social tolerance it advocates. An economic analysis of the cost of grizzly bear recovery to the American taxpayer over many decades would add needed context. Livestock lost to grizzly predation over the same period should be included in an economic evaluation; with any livestock loss compensation producers have already received considered as part of the cost of recovery, rather than the loss.

Condoning the taking of valuable grizzly bear is reflected in the Conflict Response Protocol number 18(e), "Grizzly bears outside established recovery zones and connectivity zones should be managed more strictly than those inside zones". And under Grizzly Bear Distribution, Relocation and Connectivity number 30. "FWP should, in consultation with relevant entities (specify), identify areas that are not "critical to the long-term viability" (clarify) of grizzly bears and prioritize relocation or removal of management bears in these areas". These statements reflect a bias against grizzly bear expansion across the broader landscape.

I'm surprised to see the Conflict Response Section so streamlined compared to other sections of the document. I would like to add,

that as part of the response protocols, Agency bear managers, Wildlife Services, etc., provide an assessment and evaluation of the producer's operations. I'll rely on those in the industry to frame questions to include in such an assessment and whether any deficiencies were identified that could have mitigated or helped to prevent the conflict. For example: Is the operation clean, were there attractants such as spilled grain or a bone yard, is the operation close to a riparian area known to be used by grizzly and if so could it be mitigated, was the livestock animal with the herd or separated, use of livestock guard dogs or other deterrents. I'd like to point out that the word responsibility is mentioned in the document just one time and that is in the Guiding Principles section number 14. "Grizzly bear conservation is a shared responsibility."

Some of the Conflict Prevention elements are already occurring. For instance MT FWP is already participating in land use planning to prevent human/grizzly conflicts. Also, the Interagency grizzly bear committee (IGBC) is currently monitoring and evaluating mortalities in all ecosystems. This goes to the purpose, "WHEREAS, it is important to recognize existing grizzly bear management objectives and existing intra-agency and interagency commitments already in place, including conservation strategies, monitoring protocols, recovery plan criteria, and forest plans". There is redundancy both within the recommendations document and with in existing bear management objectives and commitments. Some council members recognize this and I've heard efforts to point this out. But the facilitators don't seem to be aware and allow the useless discussions to continue. This is a fault in the process that leads to redundant recommendations or potentially conflicting with processes already in place.

While the Conflict Prevention section is better developed than other sections, I don't understand why Agriculture 15(b), "Livestock Loss Board and relevant agricultural organizations should research and establish best management practices", was struck out. This would be a good practice and should be implemented. It directly supports my request above for an assessment and evaluation of operations in response to conflict. Remember, grizzly conservation is a shared responsibility. Also, under Education and Outreach section number 13, "We encourage Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) to explore best management practices for businesses around bear safety for employees and clients" might be better placed in the Conflict Prevention section. I don't know why it is up to IGBC to explore this. This is low hanging fruit and examples are currently being practiced.

The section on Grizzly Bear Distribution, Relocation, and Connectivity is disappointing. These topics represent three of the seven required elements in the Governor's Executive Order (No. 9-2019) critical to achieving objectives. The work done is a good start but more needs to be done. In my public comments, I have advocated for habitat to be included as a core element. Despite efforts by some council members, clear recommendations regarding habitat are missing. Number 20 in this section says only, "Something about habitat from Michele referring back to the guiding principles". Thanks to Michele for at least creating a placeholder. Likewise, #31 says simply "Robyn-connectivity". This section is incomplete. I've copied the guidelines relevant to habitat and connectivity and pasted them below. With a little effort these can be reframed as meaningful recommendations in the distribution, relocation, and connectivity section.

- Guiding Principle Number 12 states, "The Council recognizes the importance of large tracts of remote secure habitat. Sustaining and improving habitat security, managing road densities, and identifying and protecting natural food resources and other needs will contribute to long term survival and resiliency of grizzly bears."
- Guiding Principle Number 13 states, "Connectivity is important to the long term sustainability, persistence, and resiliency of grizzly bears. Connectivity areas will exist in diverse social and environmental settings. Not all of these settings are conducive to permanent habitation, but should be managed to promote genetic and demographic connectivity in biologically suitable and acceptable habitat, being mindful that biologically suitable does not always mean appropriate."

Other than the two placeholders, nowhere in the recommendations do I see identification of suitable and appropriate habitat for grizzly bear outside of the recovery areas, nor a protocol for identifying such habitat and connectivity areas. The references link on the FWP website offers a program called Crucial Areas Planning System. I don't know anything about it, but something like it might be of help. Again, I request "Habitat" be added to the subject header, and be recognized and considered as the important element it is in the Council's efforts to provide for grizzly bear conservation and recovery.

I'm happy to see number 26, "Encourage continued federal protections of WSAs and IRAs to maintain habitat security for grizzly bears." These areas are the cornerstones for quality habitat and connectivity. Requesting the Governor petition Congress to fully protect these areas by inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System would strengthen the recommendation.

It is good that number 28 requires FWP and relevant agencies to clearly define the landscapes in between the four recovery zones in Montana that are important for connectivity. However, I don't see how it is possible to define "those areas that are not a priority to

grizzly bear connectivity". Other than discouraging bears in urban areas for example, grizzly bears are going to make their way across the landscape. I'm not certain whether this council has it in its purview to constrain grizzly bear distribution or expansion.

At the May 21 Zoom meeting I made the following comment and am repeating it here for the written record: "If the end product of the council's work is intended to have long term usefulness, the GBAC should consider the range of conditions on the landscape and forward thinking changes that could occur over time. For example, the Northern Plains of Montana has large blocks of protected public lands including Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, and the Charles M Russell Wildlife Refuge and the UL Bend Wilderness Area. In addition there are large tribal lands, where free roaming wildlife including bison, grizzly, and many other species is part of their heritage. The American Prairie Reserve is also piecing together a landscape scale model inclusive to all components of ecological diversity.
"If the Council wants its work to endure, it must embrace the potential for grizzly bear 'expansion' over this vast landscape, and other suitable habitat. There are also ranchers who are already figuring out how to operate in such a context. Hopefully, the Council is able to clearly incorporate these landscapes, perspectives, and efforts into the outcome of their work. The section on Distribution, Relocation, Connectivity and Habitat would be an appropriate place in the document."

The Resources Section is very detailed and redundant. It could be streamlined. While the word 'responsibility' is mentioned only once in the document, fund or funding is repeated two dozen times. More emphasis on individual responsibility could reduce the need for funding. Some creativity is needed. As far as funding, a grizzly conservation stamp could generate considerable revenue. There was a lot of interest in such a stamp for the wolf following delisting. Unfortunately it was thwarted by confusing conservation with management and including funding of lethal actions. From what I remember, hunters also reacted negatively to the conservation stamp perhaps construing the non-commodity element of a conservation stamp would reduce the hunting communities voice in wolf management. In any case, a Grizzly Bear Conservation Stamp could be an economic windfall, and demonstrate how much people throughout Montana, the nation, and the world value this iconic species and would contribute to true grizzly bear conservation, without a hunt.

One thing is clear, the two and one-half pages in the Role of Hunting section exceeds the length and detail of any of the recommendation categories: more than twice that of Education and Outreach; three times that of Grizzly Bear Distribution, Relocation, and Connectivity; five times that of Conflict Response and Protocols; and greater than sections on Conflict Prevention and Resources (funding needs). I had requested clarification on the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, and how it specifically applied to the grizzly bear, but despite the length and detail in this section, I could not find reference to my request.

There were those on the Council who weighed hunting 'very strongly' and were allowed to push and coerce till they got their words in, even in the absence of consensus. Given the excessive focus on hunting and lack of restraint by some Council members, and in order for the product to have any integrity, this section should be removed from the body of the document and put into an appendix as originally discussed at length during the meetings. The facilitators let the ball drop on this.

#202

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

George Corn

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

To: Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council (Council)
Re: Comments on Draft Recommendations of Council
Before stating my comments I want to thank each of you for volunteering to serve on the Council. I appreciate you taking the time to work on this matter of great public importance.
Here are my thoughts. I believe your recommendations should place more emphasis on the natural dispersal of grizzly bears that is already taking place across the State particularly in the "connector" landscapes between recovery zones. MT FWP should not be the agency that defines where bears should or should not be on the landscape. There must be a broader, more inclusive vision of the importance of recovery of the grizzly than that of FWP.
I applaud, in large part, your general vision of "a fully recovered grizzly population …." with one important exception. It should not include "play" as one of its goals. The sentence should end "….while maintaining the safety and quality of life for those that live and work in Montana." Those of us who "play" in the outdoors in Montana must learn to "play" safely in grizzly country and accept the risk that even taking "proper precautions" is no guarantee of safety.
The Montana outdoors is not Disney World. It should be stated plainly that folks who use it do so at their own risk. Be they hikers, hunters, backpackers, backcountry skiers, mountaineers, 4 wheelers or mountain bikers, folks must learn to practice their "play" in a safe manner when out in grizzly country. Accordingly the recommendations need to announce that those of us who use the great Montana outdoors do so at our own risk which includes grizzly bears just as it includes lighting, fast rivers, sudden snow storms, avalanches and rock fall. That's not to say folks shouldn't be educated on how to conduct themselves in grizzly country so leave in the education components. However, it's an obscene public policy that would require grizzlies to be managed so people can safely "play" in the outdoors. (Lest this sound harsh I fully recognize the danger grizzlies can present and take precautions on the trail and at camp full knowing they don't guarantee safety. I readily admit that I've spent more than one night, on several hikes and particularly in Glacier NP, being anxious and sleeping fitfully with bear spray and head lamp at the ready.)
I appreciate your recommendations that encourage coordination and collaboration between all levels of government wildlife managers be they local, state, federal or tribal. This will ensure the necessary consistency for a successful public awareness campaign on how to live, work and recreate in current and future grizzly bear areas. I hope this will be in the final recommendations.
Also in your final recommendations, you should acknowledge that local communities and individuals can take proactive measures to prevent the "fed bear, dead bear" cycle. People and bears can coexist, but it takes community engagement, quick response from wildlife managers and planning. In public policy matters pointing out successful examples provides strong encouragement for others to follow suit. Accordingly, it should be pointed out that some communities, including Red Lodge and Nine Mile have already taken this path. The carcasses collection on the Front is another example.
These efforts to encourage and establish that people and bears can coexist will need to be financed. Both Montana and the federal government should prioritize finding long-term sustained funding to prevent conflicts and educate communities on how to live with grizzly bears.
I appreciate that you have a section regarding the impact of roads and railroads on bear populations and the ability of bears to move across landscapes. That section needs to be strengthened since car/ train collisions are a major cause of bear mortality. Additionally these deaths by collisions decrease the chances of connectivity since they often occur to "pioneering" bears. The Cabinet- Yaak grizzly that summered in the Bitterroots last year and returned to the Cabinet -Yaak to den-up for the winter is proof that connectivity can happen. That said, for it to occur in meaningful numbers MDOT must prioritize ways to ensure grizzlies and other wildlife can move across highways safely.
Additionally, your recommendations should direct that our Congressional delegation needs to work harder to pass the already introduced transportation bills which have funding provisions for wildlife overpasses and crossing.
The necessity of safe, strategic and multiple wildlife crossings that ensure connectivity and population numbers brings me to your recommendations regarding hunting if a season happens in the future. It's imperative that the hunting recommendations state flatly that Montana will strongly encourage Idaho and Wyoming to stop the practice of shooting black bears over bait in the upcoming season. Add a contingency recommendation that if they refuse then Montana will immediately recommend that the federal government revoke permission for Idaho and Wyoming to allow hunting by bear baiting to continue on federal land.
This is absolutely necessary since both the most probable northern and southern connectivity routes to the Bitterroot ecosystem wind along the MT–ID and a bit of the MT –WY divide. It frustrates the entire purpose of the recovery plan to have bears killed along connectivity routes. We already know that a grizzly making the trek from the Cabinet-Yaak was mistaken for a black bear and shot

over an ID bait site on the connectivity route in 2007. Many other grizzlies in the recent past have met the same fate. Any serious plan regarding recovery and hunting should include this common sense recommendation.
Additionally, you should delete the work “majority” from the guidelines on hunting. Stating that the guidelines come from a “majority” of the Council without stating what the vote count was, what was involved in the debate or whether other parts of the recommendations were horse-traded along the way gives it an undue weight not accorded to other part of the recommendations. It diminishes them. It also calls into question how the guidelines were decided and by what margins. It is the only section containing the word “majority” and its deletion does not affect the substance of the guidelines.
This recovery effort is important. I’ve been fortunate to have spent time in several MT ranges that have grizzlies. I am grateful for that. We need to see a strong recovery in all zones but having lived in the Bitterroot for almost 40 years I am particularly concerned with establishing a grizzly population in the Bitterroot ecosystem. With that in mind I’ll let the words of Bud Moore close for me. They come from his book The Lochsa Story (1997), chapt. 17: Last of the Bitterroot Grizzlies.
“The Bitterroots has become a lesser place than they were when the grizzlies flourished. Those silvertips, you see, were a special part of the mountain’s wildness. And, so far as I was concerned, no conceivable change short of their return could replace the emptiness left behind by last of the great bears. “
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on how to bring “the great bears” back.
George Corn, Hamilton, MT, 8/4/20

#203

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

George Corn

Q3

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Additionally, you should delete the work “majority” from the guidelines on hunting. Stating that the guidelines come from a “majority” of the Council without stating what the vote count was, what was involved in the debate or whether other parts of the recommendations were horse-traded along the way gives it an undue weight not accorded to other part of the recommendations. It diminishes them. It also calls into question how the guidelines were decided and by what margins. It is the only section containing the word “majority” and its deletion does not affect the substance of the guidelines.
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“The Bitterroots has become a lesser place than they were when the grizzlies flourished. Those silvertips, you see, were a special part of the mountain’s wildness. And, so far as I was concerned, no conceivable change short of their return could replace the emptiness left behind by last of the great bears. “
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on how to bring “the great bears” back.
George Corn, Hamilton, MT, 8/4/20

#204

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 11:20:48 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 11:31:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:46
IP Address: 71.32.57.108

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

August 4, 2020

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#205

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 11:31:47 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, August 04, 2020 11:31:53 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:05
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Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Patricia Ames
Missoula, Mt
lunaswan415@gmail.com

August 4, 2020

Montana State
Governors Grizzly Bear Advisory Council

Comments on Draft Recommendations

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COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, August 05, 2020 9:06:27 AM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, August 05, 2020 9:10:53 AM
Time Spent:	00:04:26
IP Address:	72.174.9.122

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Ryan Lutey

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

August 5, 2020

Re: Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council draft recommendations

Dear Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council,

I am writing to express The Vital Ground Foundation's support of the Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council's draft recommendations dated July 28th, 2020. I commend you for your dedication and commitment to the work you've completed in serving in your role on the Council. Vital Ground also thanks Governor Bullock for his foresight in convening this council. And lastly, we thank Shawn Johnson and Heather Stokes for their facilitation of the meetings and conversations around the issue, and allowing Vital Ground to present information related to private lands conservation at the Council's meeting in October 2019.

The Vital Ground Foundation is a Missoula-based land trust working to protect and restore North America's grizzly bear populations for future generations by conserving wildlife habitat and by supporting programs that reduce conflicts between bears and humans. Since 1990 Vital Ground has worked with private landowners to protect land providing high-quality wildlife habitat in perpetuity, through incentive-based mechanisms such as voluntary conservation easements and fee title acquisitions. More recently, Vital Ground has established a solid record of supporting local programs to prevent conflicts between bears and people through our Conservation Partners Grant Program.

The July 28th draft recommendations contain several sections that directly relate to Vital Ground's work as a land trust, and these comments are restricted to those sections specifically cited. Additionally, Montana is extremely fortunate to host many enthusiastic and nationally-accredited land trusts, and several of these comments are intended to facilitate additional partnerships and investments between those organizations and their private landowner partners to broadly benefit grizzly bears, other wildlife and Montana's iconic landscape.

Vital Ground's three decades of conservation success has been dependent on the willingness of private landowners to pursue the conservation of their property. The generosity and altruism of these landowners is enjoyed both by the people of Montana as well as those who travel to visit our landscape. The conservation actions of private landowners have and will continue to support the recovery and sustainability of grizzly bears in Montana and beyond.

Vital Ground strongly supports the Council's Guiding Principle (5) emphasizing incentive-based conservation efforts on private lands. Vital Ground and our partners in the Land Trust community are the diverse entities that are capable of leveraging public and private funding to find conservation outcomes given the opportunity.

To activate Guiding Principle (5), we highly encourage the Council to finalize the tentative recommendations previewed in Guiding Principle (6) to create state-based public funding to incentivize the conservation of private lands contributing to habitat connectivity, grizzly bear recovery and sustainability. There is simply no greater opportunity to positively affect both grizzly bear recovery and the prevention of conflicts between bears and people than encouraging state-based funding to leverage other existing private, local (county) and federal conservation programs statewide. Funding voluntary programs to prevent the inappropriate subdivision and development of the species' habitat not only provides grizzlies a place to live, it directly heads off the inescapable increase in conflicts between bears and people that stems from continual human expansion into currently undeveloped wildlife habitat.

Guiding Principle (13) correctly recognizes habitat connectivity as a key to grizzly recovery, as well as an area that is fraught with the increased potential for conflicts between bears and people – conflicts that could contribute to increasingly challenging social dynamics. For that reason, Vital Ground recommends Guiding Principle (13) should emphasize proactive investment of resources to prevent conflicts in linkage areas. With the full understanding that conflicts with grizzly bears need to be managed wherever they occur, this suggestion is not intended to redirect resources from other areas in need, but encourages preemptory investments to (i.e.) increase bear awareness and sanitation in those areas grizzlies must pass through to access other large blocks of protected core habitat. Such

investments would logically promote fewer interruptions to passage through these areas (due to fewer human-created interactions), and hopefully result in increased social tolerance of the species in those areas.

Section 1. Grizzly Bear Distribution, Relocation, and Connectivity (25.) encourages voluntary incentive-based conservation practices, "…in areas identified as important to wildlife passage…". In the interest of both recovery the species and prevention of conflicts between bears and people, Vital Ground submits that this recommendation should be broadened beyond "areas important to wildlife passage" to (i.e.) "…all areas appropriate for grizzly habitation, passage and conflict prevention…". Grizzly bears are a notoriously far-ranging species and support for conservation of their habitat should reflect that characteristic. Supporting voluntary, incentive-based conservation of the species' habitat well beyond a loose definition of "passage" habitat will benefit both Montana's grizzlies and the private landowners willing to host them.

This section should also specifically recognize the contributions that private landowners have and will continue to make to secure connectivity of recovery zones, ecosystems and grizzly populations. Private landowners are the linchpin to connectivity in every sense of the word in the state of Montana and without their willingness and support connecting populations of grizzly bears will be a challenge. Please consider amending this section to acknowledge the contributions these landowners are making and will continue to make in these areas.

Again, Vital Ground sincerely thanks you for your historic efforts to forge a path forward for grizzly recovery in Montana, and for providing generous opportunities to engage in that process along the way.

Sincerely,

Ryan Lutey, Executive Director
The Vital Ground Foundation
20 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, Montana 59804
(406)549-8650
www.vitalground.org

#207

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, August 05, 2020 11:46:16 AM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, August 05, 2020 12:00:07 PM
Time Spent:	00:13:50
IP Address:	69.145.180.214

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Bozeman Citizen

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am disappointed that the Council did not reach consensus opposing a grizzly hunt, and strongly encourage them to rethink this position.

There is no good evidence that hunting is an effective or necessary management tool for grizzly bears, but ample evidence shows that hunting undermines coexistence by inflaming social intolerance and driving bears to more livestock conflict. In the absence of any scientific evidence supporting a hunt, and with plenty of science showing that a hunt would be detrimental to GBAC's coexistence goals, recommending against a hunt is the right choice.

Trophy hunting of carnivores is wildly unpopular among Montanans and the American public. Montana must respect and consider the views of all citizens for whom it manages wildlife in the public trust, not just small but vocal hunting and ranching interest groups. I strongly urge the Council to do what is in the best interest of the majority of the American public they are representing and rethink the position to recommend against trophy hunting.

#208

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, August 05, 2020 1:23:10 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, August 05, 2020 1:27:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:25
IP Address: 66.160.130.40

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Josh Osher

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am concerned about the overall framing of "majority" versus "minority" Because this is not a majority driven decision making process, it is simply not relevant or appropriate to indicate the breakdown of advisory council members in support or not in support of any particular issue. If there is not consensus, then state that and leave it there. In my opinion, the section on the hunting guidelines should also not state "Majority" and should rather indicate that these are the recommendation of members that support hunting.

#209

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified:	Wednesday, August 05, 2020 1:33:26 PM
Time Spent:	00:02:15
IP Address:	71.126.136.30

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Nicholas Arrivo

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am writing to bring to the Council's attention a timely and relevant Op-Ed published by two prominent carnivore coexistence experts today, August 5, in the Missoulian.

https://missoulian.com/opinion/columnists/science-does-not-support-the-claims-about-grizzly-hunting-lethal-removal/article_6c345a20-fd48-5f22-a5a2-f13599f4f551.html

The full text of the Op-Ed is copied below:

Science does not support the claims about grizzly hunting, lethal removal

by ADRIAN TREVES and JOHN LAUNDRE

As the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council (GBAC) works to finalize its recommendations regarding the future of grizzly bear management in Montana, it would be well-advised to follow its own guiding principle: "the best available science should inform decisions in all aspects of grizzly bear management and conservation."

A close look at what that science actually shows about coexistence with native carnivores reveals insufficient support for the notion that hunting seasons and lethal removal will reduce grizzly bear-livestock conflict or improve tolerance of grizzlies' presence on the landscape. To the contrary, the science suggests that killing carnivores can make these problems worse.

As a professor of environmental studies at University of Wisconsin-Madison (where Treves directs the Carnivore Coexistence Lab) and an assistant professor at Western Oregon University (where Laundré studies large predator-prey relationships), we are well-acquainted with the scientific literature on predator management. We have been studying predator-prey ecology for a combined 80-plus years, and have published more than 80 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles on ecology, conservation and predator management.

Our research and that of other scientists shows that lethal management and hunting seasons can hamper coexistence efforts by reducing residents' tolerance of native carnivores. Independent colleagues and both of us have examined public attitudes toward gray wolves in Wisconsin over a 13-year period that included the federal delisting of wolves in January 2012, which was immediately followed by government trapping and soon after by public hunting, trapping, and hounding seasons. We found that public tolerance of wolves declined each time policy changes made it easier for state managers or the general public to kill wolves. Wisconsin's decision to open a hunt on the newly delisted population in 2011 was no exception. Even as hunters and trappers were allowed to kill hundreds of wolves in a single season, the men living in Wisconsin wolf range became more hostile toward them and, especially disturbingly, more inclined to poach them.

More recent work coming out this year is showing that radio-collared wolves were more likely to be killed, and the evidence hidden from authorities, during six independent periods in which wolf-killing was legalized. The reason why is elusive, but we suspect that lifting restrictions on killing essentially signals that it is socially acceptable to kill these animals; moreover, reduction or removal of disincentives, such as penalties associated with "take" of endangered species, could be to blame.

The claim that killing carnivores is necessary to address livestock conflict is also dubious. A large and growing body of high-quality research from a dozen nations and two dozen independent scientists shows that nonlethal conflict prevention methods such as livestock guardian dogs and electric fencing are the most effective way to prevent predation on livestock by bears, wolves, coyotes, mountain lions, and other native carnivores.

By contrast, there is relatively little evidence supporting the effectiveness of lethal removal, and many of the studies that seemingly support such a claim are plagued by biases that render their findings weak and unreliable. In extreme cases, lethal control of carnivores might be necessary when coexistence proves impossible. However, this generally happens when and where we fail to use nonlethal interventions.

Some suggest that public hunts of carnivores are the solution. Yet public hunting has never been shown to reduce livestock conflicts, probably because the timing and location of hunts generally do not coincide with the timing and locations of domestic animal injuries. Indeed, recent research on cougars in Washington state has instead found that sport hunting led to more losses of livestock, probably by disrupting cougars' social and territorial hierarchy. Similar results for wolves in Michigan suggest government trapping may have exacerbated cattle losses for the neighboring farms. That's how word of mouth between farmers can spread a counter-productive intervention. These results have been further supported in a large regional comparison of livestock loss to cougars between 10 western states with a sport hunt and California where sport hunting of cougars has been banned since the early 1970's. Sport killing of carnivores just does not produce the management goal of lower livestock losses. All it does is to reward a killing opportunity to the small segment of society, hunters, who as a group are the least supportive of protection of carnivores, as we have shown in multiple surveys.

Simply put, the alleged benefits of carnivore-killing policies – both hunting seasons and lethal management by state officials – are overstated and unsupported by robust scientific evidence. Research shows that these policies are likely to undermine coexistence efforts by stoking social intolerance and failing to address conflicts. Continuing to promote these ineffective wildlife management policies wastes limited resources and harms nature, animals and people.

The GBAC should heed the lessons learned through decades of rigorous research on carnivore populations in the U.S. and around the world by supporting nonlethal conflict prevention and recommending against hunting as a conservation strategy.

Dr. Adrian Treves is a professor of environmental studies and director of the Carnivore Coexistence Lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. John Laundré is a wildlife ecologist and an assistant professor at Western Oregon University.

#210

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, August 05, 2020 4:10:30 PM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, August 05, 2020 4:32:19 PM
Time Spent:	00:21:48
IP Address:	67.143.192.160

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Gale R. Gustafson

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

We need to manage the Grizzly like every other game specie, that is to say with annual hunting seasons. The day of the Prairie Bears is what Lewis & Clark witnessed first hand along the Missouri River and there is no need to revive it some 150 or more years later. They have thrived in our Wilderness Areas and National Parks and we do not need to have them on private lands where our people reside and engage in their livelihoods and are subject daily to serious personal injury or death, not to mention destruction of their livestock, pets, granaries, etc. As a rancher and participant in the Block Management Program since its inception, I am seriously thinking of following the lead of some my neighboring ranchers and farmers and withdrawing from the Program and encouraging others to do likewise. Our pastoral lifestyle we have chosen has now resulted in constant vigil for Grizzly Bears, electric perimeter fences around our ranchsteads and farmsteads, feeding our outdoor pets inside, and refraining from recreating and walking on our own property. As my Father often stated, not all the grizzly bears are worth one human life. We certainly do not need to facilitate Grizzly connectivity in the four (4) zones your Council has identified and threaten those people residing, working and recreating in the more populated corridor areas.

#211

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, August 05, 2020 5:03:36 PM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, August 05, 2020 5:15:30 PM
Time Spent:	00:11:54
IP Address:	69.145.147.24

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Claudia Narcisco

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

It is now Wednesday 5:15, on August 5, 2020. The meeting was scheduled for noon to 4 pm. There is an important conversation on connectivity that didn't start until after 4 pm, when the meeting was supposed to be over. Several on the council are pushing for language that one of the few members who is speaking for the grizzly bear above all else, is not comfortable. They are asking that she agree, and she is giving a hard NO. It looks like they are going to have to schedule another meeting. The facilitator recognizes the difficulty and asked that the council member craft alternative language and coordinate with those who feel strongly. I feel I needed to report this, given that I am not comfortable with pressure being put on the council member, well past the time when the meeting was supposed to end. Another council member is confirming concerns. Consider this my public comment for the day.

#212

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, August 05, 2020 11:04:29 PM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, August 05, 2020 11:11:06 PM
Time Spent:	00:06:36
IP Address:	70.33.46.34

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Ed Kalal

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Obviously he hand selected a group of democrat bear loving fags for this council. Have you ever thought about selling a grizzly tag for the big bucks to use for conservation? Clearly not. If you would quit paying your judges to block everything I think if you would consider a lottery tag you could actually help instead of just trying. Fuck off you Demi douche bags. Especially Buttlick

#213

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Thursday, August 06, 2020 9:40:59 AM
Last Modified:	Thursday, August 06, 2020 9:42:28 AM
Time Spent:	00:01:28
IP Address:	174.204.35.238

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Chris

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I'd like to know what you're going to do about the grizzly bear that attacked a man in Choteau area not only did it attack him he's still in the hospital it also was on his property yesterday and scared his twelve-year-old daughter and rip the door off the chicken house and yet they're still nobody up there dealing with it this bear needs to be shot immediately before somebody dies

#214

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, August 06, 2020 10:27:45 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, August 06, 2020 10:42:30 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:44
IP Address: 192.230.161.47

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Blair Gjesvold

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Here is the deal people. YOU HAVE A GRIZZLY bear problem. I have attended many meeting put on by the Fish and Game, talked to many locals, and hunted and rode the Bob my adult life. You have a grizzly bear problem. The fish and game has done a great job some with transparency but most without informing the public and in many case plainly purposely misinforming the public mostly because they are afraid of the trust baby mentality of the East and West coast liberals. The F&W states that they have met their quota of 1230 bears in the Bob Marshall. What they do not tell you unless asked is that they also have forced bears into zone 2 whick also has a number of about 250 to 350 bears. NOW the problem is that bears are also being forced into zone 3 whick is PEOPLE aone not a bear zone. My grnadkids from t he Choteau and Bynum area cannot go outside with an adult. Bears are everywhere here people not an exception. We had another attack not very far from Farifield-Choteau the other day. These bears need to be hunted and WILL be hunted with or without your help. Bears fo not fear your assumptions nor your board recommendations. They fear man only when man puts fear into them. You will be the ones that will have to take on the reponsiblity when someone gets killed or mamed. If that were to be any of my grandkids or my daughters you will be to blame. A hunting season is not a bridge to far. The numbers are the problem is there. I am sick of hearing bear track across a patio or in a corral MILES nad MILES from zone 2. Time to hunt them not pour more trust money into them. Govern for Montanans that have to deal with these intruders on PEOPLE country and not cave to the East and West coast lawyers. Face it if you do not handle the situation and people get hurt we will gut shot them ourselves.

#215

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, August 08, 2020 3:55:14 AM
Last Modified:	Saturday, August 08, 2020 3:56:31 AM
Time Spent:	00:01:16
IP Address:	72.60.5.36

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please ban trophy hunting.

#216

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, August 08, 2020 9:23:44 AM
Last Modified:	Saturday, August 08, 2020 9:33:57 AM
Time Spent:	00:10:13
IP Address:	63.229.27.161

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Ralph Turner

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

U.S. Wildlife Service
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

Re: Bear Baiting

I oppose your new rule to allow baiting Brown Bears in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge because today's hunters have the use of all-terrain vehicles, snow mobiles, binoculars (night vision), game cameras with timers, high-powered rifles with telescopic sights and, in good conscience, how can you propose killing of brown bears at bait sites. It is impossible to police or be aware of all these bait stations that dirty up the forest and it is allowed.

This proposal clearly shows your agency has no respect for the magnificent brown bear that you deem worthless apart from their frivolous use to humans. I can assure you, for most of the population in and outside of Alaska the brown bear is a symbol of Alaskan Wilderness and should be protected.

#217

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, August 08, 2020 1:43:17 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, August 08, 2020 1:51:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:46
IP Address: 63.229.27.161

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Ken Harada

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I oppose your new rule to allow baiting of Brown Bears in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge because today's hunters have the use of all terrain vehicles, snow mobiles, binoculars (night vision), game cameras with timers, high-powered rifles with telescope sights and, in good conscience, how can you propose killing of brown bears at bait sites. It is impossible to policed or be aware of all thosoe bait stations that dirty up the forests once it is allowed. This proposal clearly shows your agency has no respect for the magnificent brown bear that you deem worthless apart from their frivolous use to humans. I can assure you, for most of the population in and outside of Alaska, the brown bear is a symbol of Alaskan Wilderness and should be protected.

#218

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, August 08, 2020 3:59:37 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, August 08, 2020 4:09:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:25
IP Address: 71.15.203.165

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Patricia Simmons

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I'm still worried that you have not put enough into migration paths for grizzly bears between YNP/Gallatin Forest to Glacier area, to Bitterroot and western Montana and Idaho so they can find habitat - food, security, breeding with other grizzlies. This would keep them near their food sources, and not wondering into the plains and agriculture lands, and protect their genes so there are enough grizzlies for mating between the major groups.
I'm also concerned that not enough money and emphasis is on range riders, guard dogs, electric fencing, flags, etc to protect private property. Additionally you need to do much more education to the public and to the agriculture industry about why conservationists and the touring public from around the world and ecologist and nature lovers, and biologists want grizzlies to have what I mentioned above. I don't need to see a grizzly bear, but I want to live my life knowing they are safe, secure, can migrate, breed to sustain adequate populations in all the areas of Montana and Idaho that I mentioned.
We do not need hunting - people don't eat bears, and eating what one hunts is the only basis morally to allow hunting. Hanging up trophies for bragging rights is ancient history and should be eliminated. Fewer and fewer hunters go afield anyway and we need to public to fund morally defensible hunting, and the fish, wildlife & parks department just like any other public resource, whether you recreate or not. We humans need to protect, conserve and love the Earth and its wildlife inhabitants.

#219

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, August 08, 2020 9:30:37 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, August 08, 2020 9:38:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:41
IP Address: 69.145.136.90

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Roger Sherman

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

The grizzly is the quintessential icon of our past history. The species live on the edge of survival. With habitat encroachment and high number of fatalities they could fall into a critical situation. Please keep them as a living example of Montana heritage.

#220

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, August 08, 2020 9:38:28 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, August 08, 2020 9:39:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:33
IP Address: 69.145.136.90

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Roger Sherman

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

The grizzly is the quintessential icon of our past history. The species live on the edge of survival. With habitat encroachment and high number of fatalities they could fall into a critical situation. Please keep them as a living example of Montana heritage.

#221

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, August 10, 2020 1:54:47 PM
Last Modified: Monday, August 10, 2020 3:07:48 PM
Time Spent: 01:13:00
IP Address: 97.121.208.137

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Megan Maier

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I am very appreciative of the time the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council ("GBAC") spent listening to experts about grizzly bears. I attended one meeting and was impressed by the GBAC's willingness to listen, learn, and work together.

While I support the GBAC's recommendations on increasing public outreach, education, and understanding of grizzly bears, as well as its recognition of the need for increased funding and resources for non-lethal conflict prevention, I am disappointed that the GBAC did not reach consensus opposing a grizzly hunt. The best approach to achieving coexistence is one based on scientific evidence. Evidence available indicates that lethal management is a far less effective tool than non-lethal alternatives. The GBAC's focus on the need for increased funding and resources for non-lethal conflict prevention reflect this recognition. With this in mind, I strongly encourage the Council to take a position in opposition to hunting.

There is no sound scientific evidence that indicates that hunting is an effective management tool for grizzly bears. In fact, there is ample evidence showing that hunting undermines coexistence by inflaming social intolerance and driving bears to livestock depredation. Dr. Adrian Treves, professor of environmental studies and director of the Carnivore Coexistence Lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Dr. John Laundré, a wildlife ecologist and assistant professor at Western Oregon University, recently wrote a guest column in the Missiolian on the subject. They state, "A large and growing body of high-quality research from a dozen nations and two dozen independent scientists shows that nonlethal conflict prevention methods such as livestock guardian dogs and electric fencing are the most effective way to prevent predation on livestock by bears, wolves, coyotes, mountain lions, and other native carnivores." (Drs. Adrian Treves and John Laundré "Science does not support the claims about grizzly hunting, lethal removal" August 4, 2020, https://missoulian.com/opinion/columnists/science-does-not-support-the-claims-about-grizzly-hunting-lethal-removal/article_6c345a20-fd48-5f22-a5a2-f13599f4f551.html.) Additionally, the authors of the piece state that "public hunting has never been shown to reduce livestock conflicts, probably because the timing and location of hunts generally do not coincide with the timing and locations of domestic animal injuries." In the absence of good scientific evidence supporting a hunt, and with plenty of evidence showing that a hunt would be detrimental to GBAC's coexistence goals, the GBAC should consider officially opposing grizzly hunting.

Thank you for considering my comments.

#222

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10:27:44 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10:44:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:19
IP Address: 173.3.102.253

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Joan Kayser

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Dear Members of the GGB Advisory Council,

From the visitors point of view I would like to say that we are coming to WY and MT mostly to see marvelous grizzly bears. There are no grizzly bears in Yellowstone, it is very sad. We were able to see only several GB in Great Teton area. You need to think how to save habitats for GB and provide food for them. A lot of big and small animals are dying on the roads!!! If somebody killed GB, moose or the other big animal they must pay a huge fine, especially if they killed mother bear or cubs. Throphy hunting is not the option for any areas in WY or MT. The number of GB is so low to compare with previous century. Poor GB are extinct in some areas in MT and it would be great to relocate some animals overthere.
Sincerely, Joan

#223

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 8:30:30 AM
Last Modified:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 8:33:37 AM
Time Spent:	00:03:07
IP Address:	69.146.14.116

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Clinton Nagel

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

August 11, 2020

To Governor Bullock and Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Re: Future of Grizzly Bears in Montana

Dear Governor Bullock and Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

The Gallatin Wildlife Association (GWA) would like to thank each individual council member and the council itself for the time and effort all have chosen to provide the state of Montana in discussing the future management of grizzly bears. GWA has participated in the public commenting process multiple times in both written and oral form prior to these comments and would like these comments to be considered as an addendum to those. We take this opportunity to comment on what is known as the Consolidated Draft Recommendations as presented on the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council (GBAC) website dated July 28, 2020.

GWA is a nonprofit volunteer wildlife conservation organization representing hunters, anglers and other wildlife advocates in Southwest Montana and elsewhere. Our mission is to protect habitat and conserve fish and wildlife. GWA supports sustainable management of fish and wildlife populations through fair chase public hunting and fishing opportunities that will ensure these traditions are passed on for future generations to enjoy.

Preamble:
We find wording in the 3rd paragraph to be misleading. We do not believe that there are "core habitats" that "support connectivity" in Montana. We suggest that confusing "core habitats" (recovery areas that presumably already have persisting bear populations?) with "connecting habitat" is misleading in that needed connecting habitat, especially between the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) and occupied bear habitat to the north, has not been occupied nor effective for genetic connectivity of populations. We believe that identifying potential connecting habitat will be a most important requirement for persistence of GYE grizzly bears. Thus, connecting habitat should not be presented in this confusing way in this opening section.

The first sentence in the 4th paragraph is one sided and needs balance. The negative effects of grizzly bear expansion upon "emerging livelihoods" in Montana are cited. Another sentence should note that growing human populations and expanding human infrastructures will continue to fragment and isolate bear populations and are expected to increase bear mortality. Such balance would provide a more complete introduction to the problem being addressed by the Council.

Guiding Principles:
One goal GWA has had from the beginning is for the GBAC to provide thoughtful consideration to and the implementation of mechanisms for successful connectivity among the six (6) existing northwestern ecosystems in the lower United States having populations of grizzly bears.1 Four (4) of these six ecosystems either border or exist in the state of Montana, making Montana critical to the success of the species existence, especially of those bears in the large but very isolated GYE.

The Vision as presented by the GBAC establishes fifteen Guiding Principles, a set of goals and rationale for the Councils existence. Connectivity is incorporated into one of those Guiding Principles. Guiding Principle 13 specifically states the following:

"Connectivity is important to the long term sustainability, persistence, and resiliency of grizzly bears. Connectivity areas will exist in diverse social and environmental settings. Not all of these settings are conducive to permanent habitation, but should be managed to promote genetic and demographic connectivity in biologically suitable and acceptable habitat, being mindful that biologically suitable does not always mean appropriate."

This statement recognizes that connectivity needs to be considered in the long-term management plan for the grizzly bear. What we might change in that statement, is to substitute the word “critical” for “important”. We feel connectivity cannot be given just lip service, but needs to be included in word and deed. Guiding Principle 12 feeds into that concept of connectivity and is exactly what is needed to secure those lanes for corridor development. For it says:

“The Council recognizes the importance of large tracts of remote secure habitat. Sustaining and improving habitat security, managing road densities, and identifying and protecting natural food resources and other needs will contribute to long term survival and resiliency of grizzly bears.”

We applaud Principle 12 for being contained within the Vision of the GBAC. We suggest that the first sentence conclude with “including in needed connectivity areas”. Principle 12 should also be made a recommendation. We need substance for the cause of connectivity other than just a vision. It needs to become a reality and this guiding principle, if implemented, is one way for that to happen.

However, GWA has great concern over Guiding Principle 9, for it states the following:

“The council supports and understands that as expansion of grizzly bears occurs East of the Rocky Mountain Front and North of Interstate 90, that do not contribute to connectivity of recovery zones, dictates special attention, management and allocation of resources and those areas needs to be clearly articulated in MTFWP management plans.”

We are not certain what to make of this language. Clarification is necessary. This statement seems to make the assumption that connectivity routes and habitats which exist east of the Rocky Mountain Front and north of Interstate 90 are not considered important or worthy to the overall connectivity for the bear. If this assumption is correct, GWA strongly disagrees. If this assumption is correct, it is contrary to the science as we know it. GWA has long been a wildlife advocacy organization in support of connectivity among several recognized, scientific corridors northward of the Gallatin and Absaroka Front. This statement in the proposed principals either needs to be corrected or restated to allow for the recognition of grizzly bear corridors to the north and east of the Continental Divide such as those of the Gallatin and Absaroka/Beartooth Front, and the Bridger Range and the Big Belt Mountains.

In addition, recommendation 18 of Section 1, under the partition entitled “Grizzly Bear Distribution, Relocation, and Connectivity” states the following:

“Allow natural movement to new areas between all four identified recovery zones in Montana.”

Recommendation 18 implies, but avoids saying, that natural movements may or should not be allowed in areas that are outside of recovery zones - but not designated as connectivity areas. Again, clarity regarding connectivity areas and their management, and other areas not within recovery zones or connectivity areas, is very much needed.

This statement alone may contradict the assumption of Guiding Principle 9. Both texts are in “red” which apparently means “those principles have yet to be discussed or decided upon”. We question and disapprove of the phrasing of Guiding Principle 9 as we understand it, but wholly support Recommendation 18 of Section 1. Connectivity and corridor protection, whether it be through management of bears or procurement of existing or new habitat must be contained as a guiding principle and as a recommendation.

GWA also wants to recognize Guiding Principles 7 and 8 stated here.

7. The effects of climate change should be considered when making decisions about grizzly bears.

8. The best available science should inform decisions in all aspects of grizzly bear management and conservation.

We want to applaud the recognition and inclusion of these two principles as they should provide a just result for the bear. Science needs to guide the management of the bear and with that acceptance, the acknowledgement of climate change should help bring the realization of a changing world to that effort. There needs to be an adherence to both.

Lastly, the Guiding Principles fail to mention anything about the number of bears needed to provide a genetically adequate, connected

population. Avoidance of this issue is a serious oversight. There is discussion of the issue in grizzly bear, conservation genetics and conservation biology literature.

Section 1:
Section 1 contains 30 recommendations subdivided over three (3) categories, which the document describes, as topics reached during deliberations. Even though, as previously stated, those in red have “yet to be discussed or decided upon”. GWA is not quite sure how to take this discrepancy, if indeed there is one. Recommendations 1-13 relate to Education and Outreach, recommendation 14-17 relate to Conflict Prevention and recommendations 18-30 relate to Grizzly Bear Distribution, Relocation and Connectivity. GWA appreciates those recommendations listed under the categories of Education and Outreach and Conflict Prevention. There needs to be a renewed interest and perseverance in both so the public (in state and out) can have the understanding and knowledge of bear behavior and ecology. Mankind needs to know how to co-exist with this iconic species.

Recommendation 16:
Two of the recommendations that GWA specifically wants to bring attention to at this time is found in Section 1, recommendation 16 entitled Public and State Land. Here recommendation 16, i, 4 states:

“Recreation use on our public lands is rapidly increasing. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) should coordinate with public land managers to develop plans to address the impacts from recreational use and prevent conflicts between grizzly bears and people on the landscape. This should include a mix of actionable items (i.e. temporary trail closures, special use permits) and consistent and comprehensive outreach and education.”

We appreciate that GGBAC acknowledges that recreation and grizzly bear activity has the potential of conflict. The Custer Gallatin National Forest needs to recognize this fact in their 2020 Final Plan. Land-management and wildlife management agencies should realize that it is not wise to place conflicting activities on the same landscape (i.e. more intense recreation activities in grizzly bear habitat). Grizzly bears and other species require space and solitude in their natural habitat for protection. The Council should incorporate this language and acknowledgement into the final product.

The second recommendation worth mentioning is found in recommendation 16, i, 6b, as this pertains to grazing allotments. For it states:

“On public land grazing allotments, which could be used to identify where and why conflict between grizzly bears and other large predators and livestock are occurring. This information could be used to more effectively allocate resources and implement tools and techniques that minimize conflicts.”

There needs to be an acknowledgement that grazing activities can impose a severe hardship to bears in grizzly bear habitat. Grazing allotments within the Primary Conservation Area must be allowed to terminate upon the allotments expiration date and not be renewed. Unfortunately, grazing allotments have taken a toll on grizzly bears in several ways over time. Through the refusal or delinquency of carcass removal, human/grizzly bear conflicts, habitat fragmentation, and more, grazing has just led to an increase of grizzly bear mortality. We suggest a recommendation stating that opportunities to diminish livestock grazing in recovery zones and connectivity areas be sought.

Recommendation 21:
21. “Relevant agencies should work with pertinent States and Provinces, landowners, agricultural producers, and communities to create plans to establish new suitable relocation areas inside and between recovery areas which further the conservation, connection, and recovery of grizzly bears in Montana.”

This recommendation seems to relate to Guiding Principle 12. Its application is critical and necessary. This has been the missing link in many plans orchestrated by land-management agencies. GWA sees this at the heart of connectivity taking root. This element is in red meaning there is no consensus (from our understanding) but we suggest that this must be implemented and become a part of any overall plan. We assume that one of the relevant agencies would be MFWP?

Recommendation 22:

Recommendation 22:
22. “If bears are captured outside recovery zones, bear specialists should have the flexibility to move bears to an appropriate established relocation site.”

We have a couple of questions about the vagueness of this recommendation. Does such flexibility not now exist? More importantly, what is meant by “appropriate” and by “established”? How would relocation sites be established? What standards would be used to establish relocation sites? What does oversight and follow up in this scenario look like or has it been thought through? Vague terminology perpetuates the existing vague terminology, and usually provides no progress

Recommendations 23:
23. “Any new and existing agreements regarding population augmentation should be evaluated on a regular basis.”

One issue that has not been discussed in this report is the subject of populations. More on that below. But we think population management should be part of any oversight. Surely this effort would have oversight and periodic review and we would assume that would be done by MFWP. Who would be making that decision as to whether or not population augmentation is warranted?

Recommendation 25:
25. “Encourage continued federal protections of WSAs and IRAs to maintain habitat security for grizzly bears.”

This recommendation is in “RED”, but we ask why? This should be a given without any debate. We see this recommendation like a few others relating to Guiding Principle 12 and we feel it is supported by it, so why is it in question? It is what is needed to make connectivity work.

Recommendation 26:
Recommendation is longer in text and all of it won’t be repeated here but the premise.

26. Work with Montana Department of Transportation and Federal Railroad Administration to reduce transportation mortalities, facilitate movement and enhance public safety:

This recommendation recognizes the obvious need to reduce mortality and aid connectivity across society’s most dangerous forms of infrastructure for wildlife, highways and railroads. GWA is a member of Montanans for Safe Wildlife Passage in order to facilitate that function. This recommendation is critical to the cause of establishing corridors and is very much needed. This recommendation facilitates GWA’s mission in two arenas and therefore very much supported by this organization.

Recommendations 27-29:
27. “To inform its grizzly management plan, the Council recommends that FWP and all relevant agencies clearly define the landscapes in between the four recovery zones in Montana that are important for connectivity and the long term sustainability of the grizzly bear, as well as those areas that are not a priority to grizzly bear connectivity.

This recommendation basically puts in place what has been inferred throughout this document. This would be a huge step forward in the process of establishing connectivity and would be the most important accomplishment of the Council.

28. If the expansion of grizzly bears does not contribute to connectivity of recovery zones, it dictates special attention, management, and allocation of resources, and those areas need to be clearly articulated in MTFWP management plans. OR The council recognizes that as expansion occurs outside of the four identified recovery zones located in Montana and landscapes in-between, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will have to balance expansion with the need to prioritize resources.

This ambiguous pair of recommendations (28, 29) must be clarified. Recommendation 28 implies that FWP should wait some undefined number of additional years to see if bears will establish needed connectivity among recovery areas, especially with the Greater Yellowstone area. This is already the position of two FWP grizzly bear management plans, and connectivity has not occurred. Without specifying a time limit, the recommendation accomplishes nothing. Recommendation 29 presumes that connectivity will occur, without active management, which is very uncertain. Stating that FWP will have to contend with competing resources adds nothing to the current status of bear management.

We contend that active management has been justified as necessary to establish permanent populations of bears within connectivity areas and that, for recovery and long-term persistence of bears, they must be given a high priority in land management within recovery zones and identified connectivity areas.

29. FWP should, in consultation with relevant entities, identify areas that are not “critical to the long-term vitality” of grizzly bears and prioritize relocation or removal of management bears in these areas.”

In recommendation 29, since we favor the long-term persistence of grizzly bears in Montana, we suggest the word “prioritize” be replaced with “authorize. We also suggest the word “management” is not necessary. Both recommendations 28 and 29 need clarification. What does the implementation of these two recommendations look like if implemented as they now read?

We’re stating our hesitancy while still admitting that MFWP has a significant role to play; should they do so wisely and responsibly. They are the agency that will oversee the overall management of the grizzly. And they should do so by using the best available science and working with other wildlife NGOs and scientists to design and determine best corridor placement.

It would make sense that MFWP analyze and document suitable habitat and try to enact current guiding principle 12. There needs to be a common sense approach by MFWP and other wildlife management agencies as to where grizzlies can successfully move across the landscape. This is obviously not going to be near or in areas of human population. Consequently, the opposite is also true. Man should not develop settlements, attractions or infrastructure in critical grizzly bear habitat. We do not believe that manufactured zones or manmade management boundaries should determine the connectivity options of the grizzly bear.

Section 2: Hunting
Section 2 leaves open the possibility of hunting for it states, they did not reach consensus. Hunting should not be allowed in recovery areas or in designated connection areas, at least until the bears have fully recovered to genetically adequate numbers. Recommendations of geneticists are that at least several thousand bears are necessary for long-term persistence of genetically adequate populations.

According to an article in the Missoulian newspaper2 entitled “What is killing Montana’s grizzly bears? Humans and bullets, biologists say”, there was this quote dated December 18, 2019.

“The IGBC finally undertook the analysis after last year’s spike in grizzly bear deaths in both the Greater Yellowstone and the Northern Continental Divide ecosystems. Last year, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grizzly bear coordinator Hillary Cooley told the committee that conflict with humans is the main cause of grizzly bear mortality, accounting for 85% of known deaths in the GYE and 91% in the NCDE.”

The mortality of grizzly bears is an obvious reason as to why these iconic bears have a hard time reaching connectivity, but why should we make it worse by allowing hunting? The question, as the article discusses, is why is there such a high rate of mortality? The answer to that question is multifold. Increased population growth into the wildland-urban interface causes an increase in those grizzly bear/human conflicts. But whether those deaths be from accidental shootings, vehicle/animal collisions, or the killing of bears from domestic animal conflicts or man/animal conflicts, the result is the same; the mortality is taking an important toll in preventing grizzlies from reaching their full potential of habitat recollection. Habitat fragmentation or the loss thereof, or the loss of food supply whether that be from climate change or other reasons are all driving the bear into searching for new areas of suitable habitat. Hunting would only decimate that population, not enhance it.

In addition to this article, there also is this scientific defense for not hunting grizzly bears at this time. We would like to second the article found in the Missoulian and the research it was based on. In the August 4th edition of the Missoulian, there was a guest column by Dr. Adrian Treves and Dr. John Laundré3 entitled “Science does not support the claims about grizzly hunting, lethal removal”. In the opening paragraph, they suggest that the Council should follow their own advice by using the best available science in their management decisions. In that next paragraph, they say this.

“A close look at what that science actually shows about coexistence with native carnivores reveals insufficient support for the notion

that hunting seasons and lethal removal will reduce grizzly bear-livestock conflict or improve tolerance of grizzlies' presence on the landscape. To the contrary, the science suggests that killing carnivores can make these problems worse."

The Bears Population:
We found it interesting that nowhere did we see in the Council's report any reference to the population of grizzly bears. We realize of course this doesn't necessarily mean the subject did not emerge during in-house deliberations. We have no way of knowing that. But we mention this here because population size is directly related to ensure the diversity, and adaptiveness of the genome and resilience of the population. This is the goal is it not, to maintain genetic diversity for the species?

GWA recommends that the GGBAC study the Compendium of Expert Statements4 published in October of 2019. In there, Dr. Fred Allendorf makes this statement as it relates to the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE).

"The NCDE Subcommittee 2018 has a population management goal of maintaining a 90% chance of not falling below 800 grizzly bears. This goal is not adequate for maintaining a genetically-diverse and demographically secure grizzly bear population. Allendorf and Ryman (2002) found as many as 5,000 grizzly bears may be needed in a single population for viability."

We, of course, are nowhere near those kinds of numbers, which makes us wonder what are the population goals the Council perceives for the state, if any? As estimated currently, the population of grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) is approximately 700 and the NCDE is 800. This does get to the heart of the matter. Without doing more than what is recommended, is that going to be enough? Dr. Allendorf says no, not in the long run. For he says:

"Moreover, repeated simulations of grizzly bear populations have shown a low probability of going extinct within 100 years, but also show extinction probability rising sharply after 100 years, with many populations going extinct within 200-300 years (Shaffer and Samson 1985)."

This is obviously not in our lifetime, but it will be in our future generations. And isn't this what responsible governments are supposed to do; plan today for a better tomorrow?

Dr. Lee Metzgar5 also states in that same Compendium of Expert Statements the following fact.

"I wish to address the nature of a "recovered" grizzly bear population in the contiguous U.S. 48 states. It is long overdue for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and other state and federal agencies to recognize the well-documented, scientific reality that any truly recovered grizzly bear population will include thousands of individuals."

We have our work cut out for us.

In Summation:
As we said above, we would like these comments to be considered in addition to those already submitted. For more specifics on our rationale on hunting and other issues, we would refer you to our previous written comments dated May 7, 2020 and our oral comments provided to the Council on July 23, 2020. GWA's position all along has been to see implementation of actions and policies that will actually produce the results desired. This will not be accomplished unless there is an entity that will possess the desire, authority and public support to see it through. The GGBAC appears to be on the right track through the establishment of their guiding principles and recommendations to help protect the future of grizzly bears.

But there needs to be some adjustments made. MFWP needs to adhere to the goals and requirements of this document, but there also needs to be some systematic re-evaluation over time. As conditions and science warrants, changes need to be made. The grizzly bear is not a traditional species; it is an iconic species, one that deserves special protection and one that has spiritual meaning to Native and non-Native residents alike.

We fear that MFWP will resort to the traditional management practice of managing a species by specific management zones, a practice which interrupts the consistency necessary. There is something to be said of managing a species based upon their own habitability, within the totality of their own ecosystem.

We would like to reiterate our position that connectivity must include those areas east of the Rocky Mountain Front and north of I-90 (specifically referring to the Gallatin and Absaroka-Beartooth Front, the Bridger Range and the Big Belts. The science models currently suggest this corridor has viability and importance.

Finally, we have said all along the problem with grizzly bears is not the bear, but of our understanding and management of the bear. It is a problem multifold, of our own making. Habitat fragmentation, climate change, loss of food supply and encroachment of man into their home causing man-made/animal conflicts have taken their toll on the grizzly bear. This document seems to address these specific concerns largely by trying to expand efforts to control conflicts. However, the future of the bear will depend upon establishing populations in connectivity areas and achieving a genetically adequate number of connected bears. This must be the main focus of the Council, or it will fail to restore and maintain grizzly bears in Montana.

Here we are responding to draft recommendations that have not been edited and are far from final, having many parts for which the Council has not reached a consensus. We request there be another round of public comment on a more complete and more nearly final version of the recommendations. This is why it is important to provide clear, precise and focused recommendations.

We thank the Governor and the Council for providing the opportunity for public comment. We will be watching to see how this process unfolds. As the Executive Order states, the Advisory Council is not a regulatory body, its recommendations are advisory only. This is one way that MFWP can regain trust of the Montana citizenry, by fulfilling the science and conservation recommendations of the Governor’s Grizzly Bear Advisory Council.

Sincerely,

Clinton Nagel, President
Gallatin Wildlife Association

Cited References:

1. Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, http://igbconline.org/

2. Lundquist, Laura, “What is killing Montana’s grizzly bears? Humans and bullets, biologists say”, Missoulian, December 18, 2019. https://missoulacurrent.com/outdoors/2019/12/grizzly-bear-deaths-4/

3. Treves, Adrian Phd, Laundre, John, “Science does not support the claims about grizzly hunting, lethal removal”, The Missoulian, Aug. 4, 2020.

4. Allendorf, Fred W., Phd, et al, The Status of the Grizzly Bear and Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Northern Rocky Mountains: A Compendium of Expert Statements. October 2019.

5. Metzgar, Lee H., Phd, et al, The Status of the Grizzly Bear and Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Northern Rocky Mountains: A Compendium of Expert Statements. October 2019.

#224

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

HELENE FRANKEL

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

grizzly bears were not put on this earth to be trophies for
hunters!!! The bears are living on land that is THEIRS and do
not welcome humans with GUNS to kill them!!!
Anyone who would want a dead bear as a trophy is
SICK!!!!!
DO NOT ALLOW GRIZZLY BEARS TO BE SLAUGHTERED!!!!
PLEASE

#225

COMPLETE

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Time Spent:	00:00:49
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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Josh Osher

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Why not just say that the following are the guidelines of the council members that support hunting

#226

COMPLETE

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Started:	Wednesday, August 19, 2020 11:08:48 AM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, August 19, 2020 11:11:48 AM
Time Spent:	00:03:00
IP Address:	69.146.147.64

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

In the intro to Considerations for a Proposed Grizzly Bear Hunt, you should not say "if and when." You don't know that a hunt will occur and you are not even at consensus that a hunt should occur. So, just saying "if a hunt occurs" more accurately reflects what you are saying in the rest of the document.

#227

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 12:35:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:17
IP Address: 104.174.117.33

Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Noah Youngelson

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I oppose the trophy hunting of Grizzly Bears - If trophy hunting was allowed by the state of Montana, iconic Wilderness areas in Montana like the Bob Marshall, Great Bear, Scapegoat, Lee Metcalf, Absaroka-Beartooth, and Cabinet Mountains Wilderness would no longer be safe havens for the Great Bear.

Grizzlies are keystone species that help shape the ecosystems in which they live. Their numbers should be allowed to fluctuate according to habitat conditions, not some human-conceived population limit. Where grizzlies thrive, so will the wild places in which they live. Thank you.

#228

COMPLETE

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Time Spent:	00:02:01
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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Deneen Tokich

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

I entirely opposed to the idea of allowing trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Allowing trophy hunters to shoot grizzly bears, including deep within Wilderness areas, runs contrary to increasing grizzly bear numbers and allowing the Great Bear to recover and reoccupy critical habitat essential for their survival.

#229

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Name (optional):

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

No to grizzly hunting.

#230

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

RAFA ALBERT

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

HUNTERS ARE SICKS, AND YOU HAVE A BIG TROUBLE

#231

COMPLETE

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Time Spent:	00:01:46
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Page 1

Q1

Name (optional):

Karen Brashears

Q3

Please enter your comments for the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council:

Please don’t allow these majestic creatures to become trophies for the like of that asshole, Donald trump jr. The bears deserve better. And you know it.