

Wickman, Erik

From: Catherine Haug <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 4:44 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

Commissioners Montana Fish & Wildlife,

Protect our grizzly bears!

I urge you to amend the draft rules permitting livestock owners to kill grizzly bears, and to limit such authority to the livestock owner's private land only.

SB 295 created authority for ranchers to kill grizzly bears "threatening" livestock even, but—unlike a similar permit system for wolves—this bill failed to protect grizzlies on public land from being killed.

While we understand why a rancher might need this authority in their own pasture, public lands are where grizzlies make their home and their living. Public lands are normally managed for multiple uses, including hunting, fish and other recreation—not to prioritize livestock grazing. FWP doesn't allow this for any other species it manages.

At a time when we have made real progress on grizzly bear conservation in some parts of Montana, this extreme measure threatens to set us back. Please amend the grizzly rule and reassure the public that the State of Montana will be a responsible steward of our treasured state animal, the grizzly bear.

Thank you.

Catherine Haug
cmhaug44@gmail.com
PO Box 1693
Bigfork, Montana 59911

Wickman, Erik

From: Dana Ashman <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2023 10:42 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

Commissioners Montana Fish & Wildlife,

I'm writing to urge you to amend the draft rules permitting livestock owners to kill grizzly bears, and to limit such authority to the livestock owner's private land only.

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Thank you.

Dana Ashman
cabinfevermt@gmail.com
597 Cielo Vista
Hamilton, Montana 59840

Wickman, Erik

From: Deborah Trowbridge <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 2:15 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

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Thank you.

Deborah Trowbridge
trowbird3@gmail.com
P.O. Box 847
Missoula, Montana 59806

Wickman, Erik

From: Sharon/Steve Lamar <lamar@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2023 10:55 AM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

I strongly oppose MT FWP's proposal to allow livestock producers to shoot grizzly bears on public land leases. This rule leaves the definition of what is a 'threat' and what are 'nonlethal measures' to the discretion of the FWP director and that is vague language. There's no real standard there or definitions. All sources of human-caused mortality need to be limited to the greatest extent possible. Allowing ranchers to use lethal control is irresponsible, especially on public lands. All grizzly mortalities must be counted in the quota, whether it was by natural causes or in self-defense. Ranchers and FWP need to use preventative methods - electric fencing, capturing and relocating troublesome bears, and disposal of dead livestock.

Thank you,
Sharon Lamar
P. O. Box 1077
Condon, MT 59826

Wickman, Erik

From: Virginia James <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:12 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

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Thank you.

Virginia James
msgmjames61@gmail.com
153 Evers Creek Rd
Whitefish, Montana 59937

Wickman, Erik

From: Michael Mason <masonjm15@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2023 10:24 AM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear Arm

Do not delist grizzly bears
Sent from my iPhone

Wickman, Erik

From: Dr Jo Jones <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:17 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

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Thank you.

Dr Jo Jones
jojones.co@gmail.com
4207 21st Ave
Missoula, Montana 59803

Wickman, Erik

From: Gail Richardson <envirogail@q.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:28 AM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

Commissioners Montana Fish & Wildlife,

I'm writing to urge you to amend the draft rules permitting livestock owners to kill grizzly bears, and to limit such authority to the livestock owner's private land only.

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Thank you.

Gail Richardson
envirogail@q.com
5263 Cimmeron Dr
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Wickman, Erik

From: Susan McClure <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:08 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

Commissioners Montana Fish & Wildlife,

I'm writing to urge you to amend the draft rules permitting livestock owners to kill grizzly bears, and to limit such authority to the livestock owner's private land only.

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Thank you.

Susan McClure
sueze24@hotmail.com
1483 N 15th Ave, #211
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Wickman, Erik

From: Kari Gunderson <cnd2543@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 19, 2023 12:45 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

Commissioners Montana Fish & Wildlife,

I'm writing to urge you to amend the draft rules permitting livestock owners to kill grizzly bears, and to limit such authority to the livestock owner's private land only.

I was not aware of the ZOOM meeting scheduled for Friday, November 17 so I am submitting my public comments to meet the November 20 deadline.

I am a third generation Montanan who grew up on a dryland grain farm along the Rocky Mountain Front where grizzly bears are expanding onto their historical home range on the prairie. Our family farm has never seen grizzly bears and have not had any problems with them.

I am opposed to allowing ranchers to kill grizzly bears on public lands where ranchers may have grazing leases. These leases are a privilege, not a right, and can be revoked or not renewed if the rancher is in violation of the lease agreement. These public lands belong to ALL Americans, not just ranchers, and the majority of public land owners do not support giving ranchers carte blanche opportunities to shoot grizzly bears out of season without a permit or license from FWP. Ranchers operating on leased public lands should be held accountable by showing proof they have tried to apply non-lethal methods like electric fencing, guard dogs, bear relocations, and proper disposal of dead cows that serve as attractants to apex predators like grizzly bears. Retired FWP game wardens like Mike Madel should be actively engaged in discussions with ranchers along the Rocky Mountain Front and be the official officer to shoot a bear that is preying on cows on private property.

The FW commission, largely comprised of cattle ranchers, leaders of the MT Stockgrowers Association, and commercial hunting outfitters, who through self-interest, will benefit financially from these political decisions that do not reflect the will of most public land owners. I grew up knowing that the "shoot, shovel, and shut up" mentality of grizzly bears was widely

acceptable, often ignored by FWP or USFWS, and difficult to prosecute. That needs to change.

I lack trust in the FW Commissioners and the FWP under the Gianforte administration to honor education efforts first, using nonlethal preventative measures before allowing ranchers to shoot a grizzly bear that they deem "threatening." This is ambiguous and lacks any transparency to considerations of other public land owners. My concern is that the so-called self-defense shootings are nothing more than a rancher seeing a bear close up and shooting it even though it's not charging or showing signs of aggression. I am a serious gardener and depend on what I grow to feed my family so should I be able to shoot any deer out of season with no license or permit who are grazing on my food source?

This proposed rule will be litigated if approved. The FW Commission was recently exposed in a lawsuit by Wolves of the Rockies to be in violation of open meeting laws by communicating internally prior to public meetings and making decisions before public testimony/written comments were even made. This is a serious breach of public trust in FWP.

Any and all dead grizzly bears should be counted towards annual quotas. Bears indiscriminately killed by ranchers should NOT be exempted, nor should trophy hunts be excluded if grizzly bears are delisted. This year's grizzly bear mortality is already high with 41 known deaths in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. How many more have been killed intentionally by poachers or ranchers who actively practice the "shoot, shovel, and shut up" illegal practice?

Thank you for your consideration of my comments as a third generation Montanan.

Kari Gunderson
cnd2543@blackfoot.net
20037 Alder Creek Road
Swan Lake, Montana 59911

Wickman, Erik

From: Susan McClure <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 10:52 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

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Thank you.

Susan McClure
sueze24@aol.com
1483 N. 15th Avenue, Apt. 211
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Wickman, Erik

From: Kathy Braddock <mandkbraddock@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 19, 2023 1:49 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

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Thank you.

Kathy Braddock
mandkbraddock@blackfoot.net
7750 Grooms Road
Missoula , Montana 59808

Wickman, Erik

From: Cathy Reich <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 5:20 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
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Thank you.

Cathy Reich
actonreich@gmail.com
1060 River Bend Rd.
Superior, Montana 59872

Wickman, Erik

From: Ruth Swenson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2023 6:13 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

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Thank you.

Ruth Swenson
ruthannaswenson@gmail.com
11 Willow
Helena, Montana 59602

Wickman, Erik

From: TONI STARK <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 5:43 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

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TONI STARK
iamironwoman@gmail.com
4720 STORE LN
Stevensville, Montana 59870