

Additional public comment received during the public comment period. These comments were received at the designated Commission email account : FWComm@mt.gov

Dear Officials,

As a resident, I write to strongly urge you to PROTECT our precious, iconic and ESSENTIAL WILDLIFE especially WOLVES at all costs. It is time to prioritize wildlife and co-exist with wolves as they are essential to our healthy ecosystem. Wolves are also tourist cash cows for the state – wolves are why tourists visit Yellowstone.

I note the following points:

- **Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.**
 - Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.
 - Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.
- **The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.**
 - Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.
 - Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.
- **Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.**
- **Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.**
- **Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.**
- **Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.**
- **Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.**

Kind regards,
Dr. Nicolas Duonn
Billings, MT

Hello- I am interested to know how the FWP is and plans to deal with this crisis. I urge the commission to immediately act on behalf of the trout and other wildlife of the Big Hole, Beaverhead and Ruby Rivers, devoting all resources available.

Doug Rohn
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Bozeman, MT

I'm writing to you about bill SB 295.

I'm so upset that you guys passed this unfortunate bill to allow ranchers to kill grizzly bears on our public lands just for being there.

Really?? How in the world can you FWP allow this to happen?

Grizzly Bears are such a big part of Montana.

They are still protected. Public lands belong to all of us, not just to cattlemen and hunters.

The regulations being drafted to implement these kill permits are so ambiguous. Tell me something, if Grizzly 399 and her cub go by a ranch doing no harm, that rancher can go ahead and kill her and her cubs?? That is so barbaric. Tell me this, did you really listen to the people or did you already have your minds made up? This is so heartbreaking to our wildlife, no words can describe what you and the governor are doing. What happened to the FWP? You are there to protect our wildlife, not to destroy. You guys really don't understand how much the grizzly bears are loved by so many people. The grizzly bear is a unique and vital part of Montana's wild heritage. Chris Servheen took years to bring back the grizzlies. Now he even says this is wrong because they are not ready to be delisted. USFWP and FWP are not listening to the science and climate change research; the plan fails to adequately address demographic and habitat threats to grizzly bears. I'm asking "IS THIS GENERATION GOING TO KILL OFF THE GRIZZLY BEARS"? I fear the answer will be, "YES" because of the politicians.

Montana legislatures' "ANTI-PREDATORS" attitude focuses on increasing ways to kill grizzlies. FWP proposes using lethal means to kill non-conflict grizzlies just because they exist outside core areas. Really?? Even females with young, outside core areas. Really?? This is so wrong. FWP should be so "ASHAMED" of what's going to happen to the grizzlies. It really concerns me about what you and this legislation have become. Montana is called "THE BLOOD STATE" because of what this legislation, FWP, and USFWP have done to this state's wildlife-in such a barbaric/inhumane manner without compassion whatsoever. What you and this legislation have done to the wolves (which the wolves belong back on the ESA), I fear the same thing is going to happen to the grizzlies. The FWP and USFWP are listening to the cattlemen. Predators cause a small percentage of livestock loss.....compared to other factors such as weather, disease, birthing problems, poison weeds, winter storms, and other predators such as mountain lions. Livestock loss to predators that are on public land are because of human negligence. Cattlemen don't keep an eye on them but blame the grizzlies if a cow goes down. SB 295 is so disappointing, disgusting. FWP is so biased, you

guys lie to the public and don't listen to what we have to say and it is so wrong. The Department of FWP is there to protect, perpetuate, enhance and regulate the wise use of the state's natural and cultural resources for the benefit of the people of Montana. FWP's work protects the integrity of what defines Montana. So what happened to you??

Also we want to say..... we believe there are less than 800 grizzlies in the greater Yellowstone. The current population of grizzlies in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming is close to 1,200-not the 2,000 number that is being rumored without the research to substantiate this claim. Now is not the time to kill grizzlies. Public lands and grizzly bears should be safe to roam them. Ranchers should move on and coexist instead of killing them. They need to stay protected. We are asking you to keep protecting grizzly bears on the ESL. How fortunate are we that Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming are the home of these magnificent animals. On behalf of 399 and the survival of her cubs: 610, Felicia, Blondie, Bonita, Bruno, Raspberry, Snow, etc. the future of their cubs AND ALL GRIZZLIES... we are asking for your participation to keep the grizzlies on the ESL and out of the irreverent management hands of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho for trophy hunting.

399 faces the real potential of being someone's trophy and her cub orphaned as do all our beloved grizzlies who live in Glacier NP, outside of Yellowstone, and Grand Teton NP. How would you feel visiting the parks knowing you want the grizzlies to be hunted and killed??

Respectfully, Kathy Braddock & Janie Talalotu