



GOVERNOR'S GRIZZLY BEAR ADVISORY COUNCIL

fwp.mt.gov/gbac

Working Group Skeletal Framework Drafts

By the end of the February 26th and 27th, 2020, Grizzly Bear Advisory Council meeting, Council members created a skeletal framework they could use to organize their emerging ideas and begin to envision the structure of an initial draft report. The Council members asked to remain in their working groups from the previous month to advance their discussions and further synthesize their emerging ideas.

Each working group's overarching framework working document is combined into the following PDF. Moving forward, a writing team will work to consolidate these four documents in preparation for future discussions.

Group 1 – Bret Barney, Caroline Byrd, Chuck Roady, Kristen Kipp, Robyn King

Group 2 – Jonathan Bower, Darrin Boss, Kameron Kelsey, Cole Mannix

Group 3 – Lorents Grosfield, Anne Schuschke, Erin Edge, Heath Martinell, Nick Gevock

Group 4 – Greg Schock, Michele Dieterich, Chad Bauer, Trina Jo Bradley

Grizzly Bear Advisory Council

Preamble

Frames context, need, and charge for the Council's work.

Vision

Articulates desired future state of Montana's relationship with the grizzly bear.

Should include a statement addressing where we want bears and why

Guiding Principles

Provides a series of overarching principles derived from the five overarching objectives from the Executive Order, emerging ideas document, and additional Council input.

Recommendations

Provides clear, discreet recommendations (and a way to capture input that doesn't represent a consensus recommendation) based on the direction provided by the Executive Order topics, FWP questions, public input, existing research/publications, and Council discussion.

- **Grizzly Bear Distribution**
 - Subheading 1 (Please fill in)
 - Subheading 2
 - ○ MTFWP should develop a statewide management plan for grizzly bear conservation and management. The plan should address the following:
 - ■ Biologically suitable and socially acceptable habitat
 - ■ Management strategies for each habitat that considers connectivity, linkage zones, locations that ensure successful management and unique challenges in each habitat but considers the entire state as a connected habitat..
 - ■ Plan should include a detailed and comprehensive outreach and education component to address social tolerance and acceptance
 - Encourage habitat restoration and enhancement on public and private lands
 -
 -
- **Connectivity Between Ecosystems**
 - Subheading 1
 - Subheading 2
 - Develop statewide conservation plan that incorporates open space, connectivity, and linkage zones.
 - Develop wildlife highway crossings in cooperation with FWP, MDOT and Federal Highways.
 -
- **Conflict Prevention**
 - Subheading 1 (e.g., Waste Management) (might move sanitation issues here)

GROUP 1 WORKING DOCUMENT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

- Establish bear wise community guidelines and protocols. Include an incentive program that encourages Montana communities within bear country to become Bear Wise communities.
- Subheading 2
- Continue to support and fully fund necessary bear conservation management personnel so they can continue the outreach and education programs; deal effectively, efficiently and quickly with conflict issues wherever they occur.
- Continue to support, fund and encourage carcass removal programs. Standardize all food storage requirements across state and public lands and encourage same standards on private lands. (outfitters - MT Board of Outfitters)
- Encourage governor and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to develop a state Bear Aware outreach and education program with a designated bear aware outreach supervisor with the goal to reach all Montanans, tourists, visitors and everyone who enjoys the outdoors, recreates, works and uses the outdoors. Standardize bear spray requirements and protocols to allow everyone to carry bear spray in bear country. (e.g.. FedX, UPS drivers;)
- **Conflict Response and Protocols**
 - Subheading 1 (e.g., Compensation) - Need more information
 - Subheading 2
 - Find and support effective methods to deter and haze bears for public and bear managers.
 - Standardize and clarify management protocols for severe conflict bears (problem bears) and fully fund this part of the conflict prevention program. Continue to use established protocols for bears that continue to engage in severe conflict situations such as food adaptation, unnatural aggressive behavior....(find legal language)
 - Recreation and Tourism - see conflict comments in that section
- **Moving Bears**
 - Subheading 1 (e.g., Transplant Protocols)
 - All agencies should work together to develop a protocol for translocating bears a) between ecosystems, b) within an ecosystem, c) outside of a designated ecosystem, which further the conservation, connection and recovery of grizzly bears in the state of Montana. Bears translocated due to previous conflict may need to be placed deeper into core habitat of a designated ecosystem. All previous agreements regarding augmentation and transplanting in recovery zones should continue to be honored.
 - Subheading 2 (e.g., Relocation)
 - USFWS, FWP USFS and WS need to work together with local landowners, local watershed groups and county governments to identify new relocation sites outside of the designated management areas, especially in connectivity zones.
 - Subheading 3 (e.g., Augmentation)
 - ...
- **Role of Hunting**
 - Subheading 1 - Need more information and discussion
 - Subheading 2
 - ...
- **Education**
 - Subheading 1 Subheading 2

GROUP 1 WORKING DOCUMENT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

- Find outreach and education comments in original emerging document
- ...
- **Resources**
 - Subheading 1 - want more information on the Wyoming Resolution;
 - Establish a dedicated permanent fund including state and national partners for grizzly conservation. This permanent Grizzly Fund would pay for management and preventative measures for human and bear co-existence in the United States. Seed money from federal appropriations would start this fund.
 -
 -
 - Subheading 2
 - ...
- **Recreation & Tourism**
 - Subheading 1
 - Subheading 2
 - The state should develop a bear aware/smart tourism and recreation plan that celebrates grizzly bear recovery and addresses conflict zones. Plan should address bear smart and appropriate recreation activities for core habitat and linkage zones.
 - A tourism/recreation tax should be considered to support bear managers, conflict prevention, and secure habitat.
- **Other (Please Add) -Let's pursue the Montana celebration idea**

Appendices

- **Executive Order**
- **Public Comment**
- **Other (Please Add)**

Grizzly Bear Advisory Council

We worked to respond to the questions from FWP related to the critical topics identified by the Governor’s executive order. To conceptualize the ideas of distribution, we defined and discussed 4 zones of grizzly bear range and their associated management.

- Area 1 - Area surrounding Recovery Zones in the NCDE and GYE with strong populations
- Area 2 - Area surrounding Recovery Zones in C-Y and Bitterroot Selway lacking strong populations
- Area 3 - Connectivity zone between Areas 1-2 spanning a mix of private and public land
- Area 4 - Lands outside of Areas 1-3 which do not provide connection to established Recovery Zones

Preamble

Frames context, need, and charge for the Council’s work.

- Grizzly bears are a part of Montana’s wildlife heritage
- Montana is unique in its conservation of grizzly bears in the contiguous U.S.
- Montana is committed to facilitating the recovery of populations within the four federally identified recovery zones of the state
- Recognize grizzly bear conservation success at the state level
 - Encourage Governor and Legislature to recognize the conservation of grizzly bears and the values they bring to the State
 - Establish consistent messaging across state agencies and public entities

Vision

Articulates desired future state of Montana’s relationship with the grizzly bear.

Populations of grizzly bears within the federally identified recovery zones are managed by Montana to prevent their reclassification as “threatened” or “endangered” under the ESA. A statewide management plan will provide guidance for this management.

- Education, outreach and conflict response should be available in all areas where humans and grizzlies share the landscape
- Grizzly bear / human interactions should be studied from both biological and social science perspectives

Guiding Principles

Provides a series of overarching principles derived from the five overarching objectives from the Executive Order, emerging ideas document, and additional Council input.

GROUP 2 WORKING DOCUMENT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

Maintain and enhance human safety

Ensure a healthy and sustainable grizzly bear population

Improve timely and effective response to conflicts involving grizzly bears

Engage all partners in grizzly related outreach and conflict prevention

Improve intergovernmental, interagency, and tribal coordination

Recommendations

Provides clear, discreet recommendations (and a way to capture input that doesn't represent a consensus recommendation) based on the direction provided by the Executive Order topics, FWP questions, public input, existing research/publications, and Council discussion.

- **Grizzly Bear Distribution**

- *Socially tolerable and biologically suitable?*

Socially tolerable and biologically suitable may no longer be useful ways for Montana to craft decisions for grizzly bear management. The concepts are valid, but too ambiguous as terms for directing management.

- *Biologically suitable has been defined in recovery zones, the whole state could possibly be “biologically suitable”*
- *Social tolerance is subjective*
- *Connectivity should be accounted for in biologically suitable*

- *Where should we be managing for bears?*

Grizzly bears should be managed to meet the recovery population goals within the existing recovery areas and provided opportunities to move between these areas in connectivity zones (Areas 1-3)

- *Support recovery within and between designated recovery zones*
- *Gives measurable objective to work towards*
- *Offers guidance to relocation/transplant decisions*

- *Where should bears be managed for or not managed for (where do we want grizzly bears)? / Should they be managed differently in different areas of the state?*

Bears should be managed within and between the four designated recovery ecosystems within Montana. Manage for habitat and population growth in Area 1, manage for conflict prevention and sustained populations in Areas 2-3, manage for conflict prevention and response in Area 4

Recommendations:

- Encourage the courts, decision makers and lobbying groups to use the best available science and the most knowledgeable grizzly bear research teams to drive management, translocation and conflict resolution.
 - Review and update 1993 recovery plan
 - Recommend Montana to move towards consistent management plan for conflict response, education and outreach across habitat areas that accounts for diversity of economies, environments, and land uses in the state
 - Standardize language, storage orders, etc.
 - Implement across all public lands and easements
 - Develop cohesive strategy for statewide management
- **Connectivity Between Ecosystems**
 - *Should we strive for connectivity between all recovery areas?*
Yes - import recommendations from last emerging ideas document

- *Genetic exchange or occupied habitat?*

The likely connectivity zones exist in diverse social and environmental settings - not all of these settings are conducive to permanent habitation. Connectivity zones should be anchored in public lands managed for occupied habitat and managed for genetic exchange in the private lands between

- Difference between natural movement and human assisted relocation

Recommendations:

- **Develop statewide conservation plan that incorporates open space, connectivity and linkage zones**
 - Incorporate assessment of human activities and impacts in conservation areas
 - Land managers provide bear resistant / conflict reducing infrastructure in high use areas on public lands
 - Identify acceptable range and linkage zones
 - Work with MDT on wildlife safety campaign
 - Work with MDT to enhance understanding of priority areas; include wildlife migration corridors into infrastructure improvement plans
- **Conflict Prevention**
 - *Recommendations to help prevent conflict?*
Yes there should be a prioritization of conflict prevention regulations that help to prevent conflict within and nearby Areas 2-4

GROUP 2 WORKING DOCUMENT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

- Consistent food storage orders across the state and multi-agency
- Statewide regulations for public land use
- Sanitation/waste recommendations for municipalities / private land
- On public lands, phase in regulations with opportunity for public response and “buy-in”
- Recommendation that state encourages federal agencies to consolidate bear related information, outreach, and regulations within Montana
- Multi-agency cooperation and consistency
- *More outreach and staff dedicated to bear conflict outreach?*
Montana needs to invest in more outreach in all zones across the state.
 - Recommend that outreach is enhanced and that FWP look to prioritize conflict response when creating / funding new positions. Look to cost-share models that currently exist (e.g. Eric Graham, Blackfoot Challenge).
 - Recommend that FWP prioritize cost share/ liaison positions over direct hires in Areas 3 and 4
- **Conflict Response and Protocols**
 - *Should response to conflict be the same across the state?*
More conservative response in Area 1 and 2 than Areas 3 and 4
 - More liberal / flexible management in Areas 3 and 4 to build trust and acceptance within these communities
 - More liberal / flexible management within private lands in Areas 1 and 2 than on public lands in these areas
 - *Are there certain conflicts that should or should not result in immediate removals of bears?*
Yes, the decision making process for this is in place. Decisions should prioritize human safety, livelihoods, and common sense.
 - *Should current protocols be modified to address the change in bear numbers...?*
Protocols should be modified to address the different management objectives in each zone
- **Moving Bears**
 - *Should FWP/Agencies continue to move bears into occupied habitat*
Bears should not be moved back to the population they came from. They should be moved to predesignated sites within Areas 1 and 2 or public land anchors of Area 3 with priority to areas that have not met recovery goals.
 - *Under what circumstances should bears be moved in new or unoccupied habitat*

GROUP 2 WORKING DOCUMENT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

Male bears should always be relocated to new areas to promote genetic dispersal

- *Are there specific criteria that should be applied before a bear is moved*

Decisions related to food conditioned, habituated, or known conflict bears should be given extra consideration and more flexible management opportunities.

- ...

- **Role of Hunting**

- *Should hunting be allowed, what circumstances?*

Hunting should be considered as a management tool using the best scientific information to determine limited quota hunts. Given complete recovery and monitoring for sustainable populations in each of the 4 recovery ecosystems, consideration should be given to Areas 1 and 4.

- **Education**

- **Improve outreach and education resources**

- Create volunteer education positions similar to hunters education
- Develop curriculum guides for teachers to implement grizzly education into learning objectives.
 - K-12 applications for all ages
 - Cross curriculum activities
- Expand and improve bear safety information to all outdoor user groups
 - Develop a recreating in bear country educational video
 - Encourage and educate about the use of bear spray
- Continue annual conference hosted by FWP to create consistent messaging, reporting, and to share effective strategies
- Create a program for Bear-Wise Communities in Montana
 - Community grants
- Encourage municipal storage orders
 - Bear resistant garbage containers
 - Waste transfer stations
- Review FWP Subdivision Recommendations
- Statewide standards for attractants and response
- FWP Bear Aware Outreach and Education Coordinator
- Coordinate with tourism, realtors, VRBOs, etc

- **Resources**

- **Continue to increase agency capacity on-the-ground in areas with bear management needs**

- FWP management specialists in specific geographies outside of PCAs
- FWP Bear Aware Outreach and Education Coordinator

- Increase partnership, funding and support for local watershed collaborative groups (CDs, NGOs, Associations)
 - Support local conflict mitigation efforts
 - Provide salary cost shares with local groups
 - Work with relevant agencies to create a streamlined way for public reporting of possible grizzly bear sightings outside of recovery zones
 - Establish cooperative monitoring programs – FWP, USFS, Permittees, NGOs on public allotments
 - Support rural economies and private lands
 - Review Livestock Loss compensation for multiplier
 - Separate compensation for depredation from funding for conflict response so each can be adequately funded
- **Spread the funding responsibility - Encourage state to pursue any and all options for increased funding opportunities**
 - Duck Stamp model
 - Resort / Gas / Visitor Tax
 - AIS prevention pass model
 - Federal, state, and private funding
 - Montana recreation license
- **Improve interagency coordination for consistent protocols**
 - Review interagency MOUs for opportunities to improve efficiency and capacity for conflict response
- **Recreation & Tourism**
 - Subheading 1
 - Subheading 2
 - ...
- **Other (Please Add)**

Appendices

- Executive Order
- Public Comment
- Other (Please Add)

Grizzly Bear Advisory Council

March 18, 2020

Group 3: Anne, Erin, Heath, Nick, Lorents

Preamble

Frames context, need, and charge for the Council's work.

Vision

- Maintaining secure, remote areas where bears can roam away from populations is essential for the long-term conservation of bears.
- The state and federal agencies should support and implement research to promote the long-term conservation of grizzly bears
- The grizzly bear is our state animal and an important piece of Montana's wildlife heritage. Most Montanans recognize that grizzly bears are an important part of what makes Montana the "Last Best Place" and unique from the rest of the Lower Forty-eight states. Therefore, Montana's grizzly bear populations—Yellowstone, NCDE and Cabinet-Yaak (and eventually the Bitterroot)—should be thriving, self-sustaining and interconnected (Johnathan's paper)

Guiding Principles

Provides a series of overarching principles derived from the five overarching objectives from the Executive Order, emerging ideas document, and additional Council input.

Recommendations

Provides clear, discreet recommendations (and a way to capture input that doesn't represent a consensus recommendation) based on the direction provided by the Executive Order topics, FWP questions, public input, existing research/publications, and Council discussion.

- **Grizzly Bear Distribution**
 - MTFWP should develop a statewide management plan for grizzly bear conservation and management. The plan should address the following:
 - Biologically suitable and socially acceptable habitat
 - Management strategies for each habitat that considers connectivity, linkage zones, locations that ensure successful management and unique challenges in each habitat.
 - Encourage habitat restoration and enhancement on public and private lands
- **Connectivity Between Ecosystems**
 - FWP define connectivity zones within Montana where natural/functional connectivity (i.e. occupancy, ecological function in connective areas) is proactively encouraged through:
 - Management decisions take connectivity into consideration.

GROUP 3 WORKING DOCUMENT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

- increase monitoring of bear movements between recovery zones users to reduce conflicts spatially/temporally real-time and improve communication between locals and agencies.
- need to develop relocation areas in between recovery zones.
- Improve communication and work with local communities to discuss tolerable relocation areas.
- Additionally, FWP should partner with the Montana Department of Transportation to identify and model potentially important grizzly bear (and other wildlife) crossing points on major highways, and seek funding and planning opportunities to incorporate wildlife crossing models into the transportation system.
- Develop wildlife highway crossings in cooperation with FWP, MDOT and Federal Highways.
 - Private lands and identified areas should be included in the conversation and considered for conservation easements.
- **Conflict Prevention**
 - Waste management/sanitation
 - Support the development of local sanitation ordinances that include enforcement.
 - Create consistency around food storage orders on public lands
 - Support existing carcass removal programs in areas of grizzly bear populations, and implement in areas where necessary and not currently in place.
 - Encourage consistency with sanitation recommendations.
 - Improve communication and messaging with MT visitors and office of tourism
 - Encourage communities in bear country to be Bear Aware
 - Work with appropriate entities to explore ways to minimize train/bear collisions due to grain spills and carcasses near train tracks.
 - Human prevention
 - Create an additional conflict prevention grant program, not coupled with the Livestock Loss Board, to address conflicts and losses.
 - One idea could be to reassess the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Living with Wildlife grant program.
 - Work with planning boards to proactively recommend actions to governing bodies on how to minimize bear conflicts.
- **Conflict Response and Protocols**

GROUP 3 WORKING DOCUMENT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

- State management protocols should be similar state-wide with flexibility case by case, current protocols currently allow for this.
- Educate landowners on safety and use of allowable non-lethal methods to haze bears.
- Funding available to hire year-round bear managers and bear management techs.
- Research and explore a multiplier for livestock loss due to grizzly depredation. Multiplier should have limits pertaining to type of operation, geography, participation in conflict prevention, and personal responsibility.
- **Transplant Protocols (moving bears)**
 - FWP in partnership with multiple agencies should create protocols and agreements necessary for translocating bears a) between ecosystems, b) within an ecosystem, c) outside of a designated ecosystem, which further the conservation, connection and recovery of grizzly bears in the state of Montana.
 - Human assisted movement of bears may be a strategy when needed to rescue a subpopulation.
- **Role of Hunting**
 - There will be no hunting of any grizzly bear population until endangered species protections are removed.
 - Any grizzly bear hunt should be managed by MTFWP to ensure and maintain a healthy grizzly bear population.
 - Messaging to the public should establish that hunting will not replace the need for conflict prevention.
 - Slow/Delayed rollout of hunting after delisting
 - Consideration of geographic area/importance to connectivity
 - FWP implements depredation hunts when necessary.
 - Strict enforcement of poaching is necessary for the long-term conservation of bears. Stringent fines and enforcement should continue regardless of listing.
- **Education**
 - Address outreach and education needs on public lands with rapidly increasing use.
 - Create a bear education coordinator position within FWP that utilizes the best available science, bear biology, and conflict prevention strategies to Streamline and create a catalog of all education, handouts, ect. that exist and create a state-wide K-12 curriculum on bears.
 - A coexistence Summit or Academy should take place regularly so that current co-existence workers and Watershed group representatives in new areas can brainstorm and discuss new challenges and ways to address them.
 - Improve bear safety information and outreach to new residents and visitors.
 - Hunter Education

GROUP 3 WORKING DOCUMENT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

- Create a video of bear safety lecture for hunters, anglers, hunters education classes, outfitters, residents and non-residents .
- Require an annual online test for residents and non-residents on bear identification and couple this with a bear spray proper use video.
- Require commercial foragers watch a bear safety video and take a bear safety test each year with their licenses like hunters and anglers.
- Look into occupational safety and health safety standards for businesses (outfitters, state employees, recreational tours, etc.) for requiring bear safety standards.
- Celebrate grizzly day (from Johnathan)
 - Encourage the Governor and the Legislature to celebrate the grizzly bear conservation.
- **Communication between agencies and the public**
 - Identify gaps in intergovernmental, interagency, and tribal coordination and create an action plan to address the gaps and improve the communication and coordination.
 - FWP needs to better communicate with the public, especially with landowners and livestock producers, when it comes to trapping and relocating grizzlies for any reason.
 - Work with relevant agencies to create a streamlined way for reliable public reporting of possible grizzly bear sightings.
 - Establish cooperative monitoring programs on public lands to assess impacts of increased recreation on wildlife into the future.
- **Other**
 - Explore new funding mechanisms for wildlife conservation and management in MT
 - Here are a few ideas:
 - **Recreation**
 - FWP should amend the current Conservation License to include recreationists, with a portion of this license fee allocated towards Montana Grizzly Bear Conservation and Management.
 - license that costs a minimal amount (1-2 dollars) for in state recreationists
 - Review CSKT and Blackfeet conservation permits for ideas on what State could start to do.
 - implement a fee or percent taken on all land or residences (built or sold) to preserve open spaces in Montana through example: conservation easements or wildlife (specifically Grizzly Bear) conflicts.

GROUP 3 WORKING DOCUMENT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

- Look at assisting land trusts with funding for easements in connectivity areas at a state and federal level (one example could be to look at the Montana Sage Grouse Initiative and how funding comes through that specific to sage grouse habitat)
- Consider making funding available for conservation easements for connectivity
- Support efforts to include in the next farm bill, funding for grizzly conservation/ conflict mitigation efforts.
- Contribute to bear conflict management funding through a mandatory Conflict Prevention Pass fee added to bear (black or grizzly) hunting license
- **Spread the funding responsibility - Encourage state to pursue any and all options for increased funding opportunities**
 - Duck Stamp model
 - Resort / Gas / Visitor Tax
 - AIS prevention pass model
 - Federal, state, and private funding
 - Montana recreation license

Appendices

- Executive Order
- Public Comment
- Other (Please Add)

Grizzly Bear Advisory Council

Preamble

Frames context, need, and charge for the Council’s work.

We would like to formally recognize the relationship between bears and humans that has existed in our shared landscape from time immemorial to the present day. For thousands of years, our tribal neighbors have lived alongside grizzly bears in their native homelands and have learned valuable lessons of coexistence from one another. For hundreds of years, explorers and settlers of European descent have lived and worked in these lands alongside grizzly bears. We have seen many changes to the relationship between bears and humans since that time. We recognize the work that has been put forth by all Montanans that has resulted in the continuation of this long relationship and recommend continued efforts towards co-existence with grizzly bears.

Vision

Articulates desired future state of Montana’s relationship with the grizzly bear.

The grizzly bear, Montana’s state animal, is an important piece of our wildlife heritage. Most Montanans recognize that grizzly bears are an important part of what makes Montana the “Last Best Place” and unique from the rest of the lower forty-eight states. Therefore, Montana’s grizzly bear populations—Yellowstone, Northern Continental Divide, Cabinet-Yaak, Selkirks, and the Bitterroot should be thriving, self-sustaining, and interconnected. To achieve this goal, state and federal agencies, the public, NGOs, tribal entities, grass roots organizations and local governments must work to initiate a statewide planning process that outlines a Montana vision for grizzly conservation and management. This vision would include: a plan to facilitate natural migration by protecting areas between recovery zones, decision making based on the best available science and current laws, an action plan to identify and address gaps in intergovernmental, interagency and tribal coordination and communication, updating the 1993 recovery plan, the establishment of a long-term fund for non-lethal conflict prevention measures, and consistent long-term funding for bear management and research.

Guiding Principles

Provides a series of overarching principles derived from the five overarching objectives from the Executive Order, emerging ideas document, and additional Council input.

Recommendations

Grizzly Bear Distribution

GROUP 4 WORKING DOCUMENT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

- Recognize that all of Montana is grizzly habitat. Create a bear management area in all of Montana. Allow natural migration, protect habitat, protect local communities, and designate relocation/occupation areas.
- Develop statewide management plan that incorporates open space, connectivity and linkage zones
- Update the 1993 recovery plan
- Management protocols should include flexibility.
- Create re-location/occupation areas in Montana.
- The recovery areas and outside zones of each ecosystem should be removed, and Montana should be designated as one grizzly bear habitat, keeping in mind that biologically suitable does not mean socially acceptable or appropriate.
- Grizzly bear populations should not be augmented by moving bears to previously unoccupied areas. Instead, the bears should naturally move to new areas on their own.

Connectivity Between Ecosystems

1. Connectivity is vital to the recovery of grizzly bears in the lower 48. Montana has the opportunity to take the lead in conservation of endangered species like the grizzly bear.
 - a. Strive for occupied habitat between recovery zones
 - b. Protect habitat to allow for natural migration.
 - c. Conservation easements
 - d. Road building restrictions similar to Amendment 19
 - e. Recommend Wilderness designation for WSA's
 - f. Honor strict protections of IRAs
 - g. No hunting of grizzly bears allowed in connectivity zones
 - h. Evaluate federal land use planning processes and projects for impact to habitat requirements for natural connectivity- with focus on food storage and road management
 - i. Bears in connectivity zones will not be translocated back to recovery areas (need to develop areas in DMA outside of PCA that are tolerable relocation zones)
 - j. Restrict new residential development to allow for wildlife movement near public lands. Clustering with wildlife corridor. Attractant restrictions
2. Reduce transportation mortalities
 - a. Encourage wildlife crossings and search for funding and planning that includes wildlife crossings in future road repair plans.
 - b. Think tanks for solving problems in high mortality situations.
 - c. Suggested reduced speed limits at night.

Conflict Prevention

GROUP 4 WORKING DOCUMENT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

1. Governor should encourage local communities to embrace bear-wise practices by supporting local grass roots and watershed community groups to work together on becoming bear-wise communities. This should originate in local communities but state and federal governments can encourage through funding and other support.
2. Reduce public and state land conflicts
 - a. Consistent food storage orders should be implemented on all state and federal lands in Montana.
 - b. Mandatory bear-awareness training for recreationists on public and state lands. This could be encouraged by offering incentives like discounts at REI, Cabellas, or bear spray etc
 - c. Encourage carrying accessible bear spray in bear country
 - d. New trails should not be constructed in core grizzly habitat.
 - e. Front country campgrounds, picnic areas, and other areas utilized for vehicle or bicycle camping should have bear resistant food and attractant storage facilities. Bear resistant infrastructure should be available at all federal and local campgrounds and other public areas.
3. Reduce residential conflicts
 - a. Create attractant restrictions.
 - b. Encourage all communities to be Bear Aware
 - c. Encourage neighborhood communication networks
 - d. Encourage county and local governments to work with local haulers to assess the need to create a bear resistant disposal option and encourage carriers to modify practices to mitigate bear conflicts. Governor and Federal agencies should pursue funding to support this effort.
4. Reduce livestock conflicts
 - a. Implement a multiplier for livestock loss due to grizzly depredation. Multiplier should have limits pertaining to type of operation, geography, participation in conflict prevention, and personal responsibility.
 - b. Encourage conflict prevention measures
 - c. Increase bear management specialist positions to allow time for relationship building, outreach, and communication with land owners and livestock producers.
 - d. Encourage livestock producers to implement appropriate conflict prevention on public lands
 - e. Increase hazing permissions including bearspray cannons that can be deployed from a safe distance.
5. Reduce hunter conflicts
 - a. Increase education of hunting safely in bear country
 - b. Encourage outfitters to provide bear spray and training to clients
 - c. Encourage carrying bear spray when hunting.

GROUP 4 WORKING DOCUMENT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

6. Public (Hunters, Recreationists, Anglers, Hikers, Etc.)
 - a. A coexistence Summit or Academy should be established each year so that current co-existence workers and Watershed group representatives in new areas can brainstorm and discuss new challenges and ways to address them.
 - b. Foraging and Recreation should be seasonally limited in areas with high grizzly concentrations. Trails and other public areas should be subject to closures when necessary.
7. Farms and Ranches
 - a. MTFWP should put more time and resources into conflict prevention, and should focus on the safety of those people that must work on the landscape raising livestock and crops.
 - b. Encourage a consistent messaging system between bear managers, residents and livestock producers. This would also include encouraging neighborhood watch systems.

Conflict Response and Protocols

1. State management protocols should be similar state-wide with flexibility case by case
2. Current protocols allow for instant removal in certain cases.
3. Current protocols allow enough flexibility to adapt to changes in distribution
4. Increase number of bear management specialists and technicians to improve response time.
5. Allow landowners to use more aggressive, non-lethal methods to haze habituated bears away including bear spray canons that can be used at a distance.
6. Establish clear guidelines for lethal removal of grizzly bears that are consistent with federal regulations and allow for flexibility. The guidelines should be driven by: 1) geography; 2) demographics; 3) evidence of chronic livestock depredation; and 4) conflict severity.
7. Grizzlies that attack humans or livestock need to be lethally removed from the population immediately.

Moving Bears

1. Agencies should use habitat research to establish suitable re-location sites in Montana.
2. If bears are already in or near unoccupied areas, allow for flexibility and allow moving bears to the nearest remote habitat rather than returned to recovery areas.
3. Clarification is needed when communicating with the public about Transplant Protocols and the difference between re-locating a bear that moved in that location on their own vs. reintroduction/augmentation.
4. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should develop a protocol for relocating grizzly bears to appropriate areas, depending on their offense.

GROUP 4 WORKING DOCUMENT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

Hunting

1. Increase poaching fines
2. If a hunt is allowed, it should be delayed for a few years after de-listing, should be extremely limited in scope, should not allow hunting near the parks, should not allow hunting in vital linkage habitat, and should be easily suspended or cancelled during high mortality years.
3. US Fish and Wildlife Service, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and USDA Wildlife Services should work together to use their expertise, science, and experience to establish a hunting season or seasons in Montana that will both maintain and help control the population.

Education and research

1. A state-wide K-12 curriculum that includes the best available science, bear biology, and conflict prevention strategies should be created and implemented including games and activities that appeal to all learning styles.
2. Encourage research and habitat studies especially in currently unoccupied areas that are likely to be re-populated
3. A coexistence Summit or Academy should be established each year so that current co-existence workers and Watershed group representatives in new areas can brainstorm and discuss new challenges and ways to address them.
4. Continue the Education Summit to support a consistent message. Consider combining it with the co-existence summit
5. Improve coordination and outreach on grizzly bears and bear awareness with the office of tourism, realtors, VRBO, etc.
6. Fund a FWP grizzly PR person to boost funding for conflict prevention and conservation.

Resources

1. Establish new funding mechanisms for wildlife conservation and management in MT
 - a. Establish a permanent fund for non-lethal grizzly conservation that could be seeded with a farm bill appropriation and enhanced with national public contributions.
 - b. Recommend that the legislature revive the Living with Wildlife Grant Program
 - c. Research funds that might be lost due to de-listing and consider the implications
 - d. Look for long term funding for the livestock loss board
 - e. Long term funding to support bear management positions and technicians
 - f. Funding could also be acquired through fees on building permits, tourism, and real estate sales.

GROUP 4 WORKING DOCUMENT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

- g. Look at assisting land trusts with funding for easements in connectivity areas at a state and federal level (one example could be to look at the Montana Sage Grouse Initiative and how funding comes through that specific to sage grouse habitat)
- h. Tourism tax
- i. Expanded resort tax
- j. Conservation fee associated with national parks
- k. Support passage of Recovering Americas Wildlife Act
- l. Federal funding support: Farm bill NRCS
- m. Support the Wildlife Conservation Stamp
- n. fee or percent taken on all land or residences (built or sold) to preserve open spaces
- o. Find funding for conservation easements
- p. FWP amend the current Conservation License to include recreationists, with a proceed of this license fee allocated towards Montana Grizzly Bear Conservation and Management.
- q. Establish partnerships with insurance companies to build wildlife bridges.

Funding Needs

1. More funding should be made available to hire more bear management specialists to train with our experienced managers and take over when they retire. We need more specialists on the ground and they should be training with our experienced managers. FWP must really support the experience they have and use it to move into the future.
2. Funding must include management specialists in areas in linkage zones now to get ahead of the moving edge of bear distribution.

Agriculture

1. Wherever grizzlies exist in Montana, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks should facilitate liveability for residents, property owners, and livestock producers, and viability for production agriculture.

Celebration of Grizzly Bears

1. Simply a celebration of the grizzly bear as part of Montana's heritage to create awareness and remind folks that grizzlies are on the landscape.

Appendices

- Executive Order
- Public Comment
- Other (Please Add)