

Montana Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council
Consolidated DRAFT Recommendations
DRAFT OF JULY 17, 2020

Preamble

Montana's heritage is intimately connected to grizzly bears and many indigenous peoples have lived with grizzly bears from time immemorial. The Blackfoot Tribe and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes continue to play essential roles in grizzly bear management and conservation in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Parks Service. The Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council respects and honors this long-standing relationship and the traditional knowledge that continues to inform management and provide habitat for grizzly bears in Montana.

As grizzly bear populations have been reduced or extirpated throughout much of their historic range over the past century, the populations that continue to reside and expand in Montana are perceived by many from our state and around the world to hold both intrinsic and ecological value and are considered essential to the continued recovery of the species. Significant progress toward the recovery of this species has occurred since grizzly bears were listed as protected by the Endangered Species Act in 1975.

Continued conservation and management efforts remain necessary. Montana is unique in the continental United States for its maintenance of grizzly bear populations and their core habitats that support connectivity and recovery in landscapes extending beyond primary conservation areas and state lines. Alongside the wilderness, parks, and protected lands that have provided refuge for grizzly bears over the past century, we recognize the essential role of working lands, both public and private, and local communities in helping to maintain a Montana landscape capable of supporting grizzlies. The conservation of this species from past and ongoing management and cooperation, as well as future conservation and management, offers the opportunity to make the goal of grizzly bear recovery a reality.

Grizzly bear expansion across the state has and will continue to bring challenges to traditional and emerging livelihoods as the human population of Montana increases simultaneously with the population of grizzly bears. The Grizzly Bear Advisory Council was charged with developing citizen recommendations for fundamental guidance and direction on key issues and challenges related to the conservation and management of grizzly bears in Montana, particularly those issues on which there is significant social disagreement.

The 18 Montana citizens on the Grizzly Bear Advisory Council acknowledge the significant task with which we were charged and worked to bring our diversity of livelihoods, backgrounds,

community concerns, and connections to Montana's landscapes into our discussions when crafting our recommendations. We also acknowledge that our recommendations are just that, and stand beside many other agency, tribal, and public contributions. We worked to use all information provided by support staff, as well as public comment, to provide meaningful guidance and feedback that will inform, but not constrain, the management and conservation of grizzly bears into the future.

Vision

We envision fully recovered grizzly populations in the four identified recovery zones located in Montana and landscapes in-between that accommodate grizzly bear presence and connectivity while maintaining the safety and quality of life of those that live, work, and play in Montana.

Guiding Principles

1. All those living in or visiting Montana should expect the potential presence of grizzly bears, and should be able to access adequate education, assistance, and resources.
2. Proactive conflict prevention measures are a necessary, effective and efficient use of resources.
3. Cooperation with and consideration of working landscapes is essential to the successful expansion and connectivity of grizzly bears. These communities are an important part of the decision-making process moving forward.
4. Addressing the challenges to working landscapes, recreationists, and local communities on both public and private lands will require an inclusive and proactive effort.
5. Voluntary, incentive-based conservation efforts (easements, etc.) on private lands should be encouraged and supported.
6. In order to implement our recommendations, it will take new funding from diverse entities and sources. Resources are key to the success of all our recommendations. As resources are developed, we need to be aware that both public and private lands needs must be considered.
7. The Council recognizes the cumulative impacts of climate change. The effects of climate change should be considered when making decisions about grizzly bears.
8. The best available science should drive decisions in all aspects of grizzly bear management and conservation.
9. Grizzly bear management requires communication, coordination, and timely consultation among governmental agencies, tribal entities, and the public.
10. Montana's diverse landscapes require flexibility to utilize varied approaches for grizzly bear management.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Grizzly bear conservation is a shared responsibility.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Education and Outreach

1. In recognition of the grizzly bear being Montana's state animal and the strides made since the species was listed under the Endangered Species Act in 1975, the Grizzly Bear Advisory Council recommends the Governor establish a date to annually celebrate and create awareness around the grizzly bear and the landscapes, communities, and continued collaborative efforts in Montana that have contributed to grizzly bear conservation.
2. Provide easy access to education about hunting safely in grizzly bear country for in-state and out-of-state hunters;
3. All relevant agencies should provide residents and landowners with accurate information on the effective use of non-lethal methods to haze grizzly bears;
4. Relevant agencies should provide consistent messaging when communicating with the public about the differences between the terminology around relocation, reintroduction and augmentation and when each might be necessary or utilized;
5. Relevant agencies should create open and accessible communication channels between bear managers and the public to encourage communal efforts around bear awareness and conflict prevention.
6. Create consistency around public access to grizzly bear mortality data across recovery zones. For example, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) database used for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.
7. Work with relevant agencies to streamline reliable public reporting of possible grizzly bear sightings;
8. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, together with partners, should explore ways to inform, promote and incentivize Bear Aware programs in communities.
9. Relevant agencies should create and use consistent messaging around the use and effectiveness of bear spray;
10. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should encourage bear spray distribution and training programs across the state:
 1. Work with professionals in the outdoor industries to provide bear spray and training to clients;
 2. Partner with outdoor recreation companies and retailers to offer grizzly bear safety training;
 3. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should coordinate messaging on the efficacy and use of bear spray with the Montana Office of Outdoor Recreation and the Montana Office of Tourism.
11. The Governor's office and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should work to fund and create a full time bear education coordinator. Considerations sub 1-6 were identified by the Council for this position but should be pursued regardless of this position being in place.

1. Develop and maintain a statewide Bear Aware program
 - i. Together with partners work to establish a state-wide program and a way to certify Bear Aware businesses and communities.
 2. Create a centralized location within MTFWP that includes available resources and a catalog of educational materials;
 3. Coordinate with stakeholders to provide bear safety information and outreach;
 - i. Identify gaps where additional bear safety information and outreach is needed. For example, the Council identified a need for further coordination with the tourism industry and realtors.
 4. Work with agency partners to address outreach and education needs on public lands with rapidly increasing use;
 5. Continue the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Grizzly Bear Education and Outreach Summit to address conflict prevention, resource concerns, ongoing challenges, as well as create consistent messaging, reporting and share effective strategies.
 6. Work with the Montana Office of Public Instruction, agencies and tribal partners to create and implement a K-12 grizzly bear curriculum.
12. Provide a bear identification and safety video including proper use of bear spray and couple it with the bear identification test online. Encourage use of these resources by a broader demographic than the hunting community.
 13. We encourage Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) to explore best management practices for applicable businesses around bear safety for employees and clients.

Conflict Prevention

14. Human/Grizzly Conflicts in and around Developed Areas
 - i. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks along with local, state, federal, and tribal entities should participate in land use planning to prevent human/grizzly conflicts.
 - (1) In occupied grizzly bear habitat and in areas where grizzly bears are likely to occur, work with city and county planning boards to proactively recommend actions to governing bodies on how to minimize grizzly bear conflicts.
 - (2) Help local communities identify and use available local grants for conflict prevention.
 - (3) Review and update all MTFWP subdivision recommendations (2012) listed in Human Bear Conflicts-Appendix C-4.
 - ii. Relevant agencies should coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) should coordinate with relevant agencies to regularly monitor and evaluate conflict mortalities in all ecosystems (for example the 2009 IGBST conflict mortality report).
 - iii. Research, development, and funding of new and innovative tools and techniques for conflict prevention and aversive conditioning are a high priority.
15. Agriculture
 - i. The Governor's office and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should work with partners to increase access to federal dollars for grizzly bear conservation and

management that includes conflict prevention actions.(For example, see Resources #3)

- ii. The Montana Livestock Loss Board (LLB) currently has no funding for grizzly bear conflict prevention grants. We strongly recommend the Governor’s Office and the 2021 Montana Legislature fully fund the Livestock Loss Board Trust Fund to allocate funding that would pay for conflict reduction tools and practices (e.g. fencing, carcass pickup and disposal, guard dogs, range riding).
 - iii. Livestock Loss Board and relevant agricultural organizations should research and establish best management practices.
 - iv. Research compensation for non-livestock commercial losses.
 - v. Increase and diversify partnerships, funding, and support for community-based groups and other organizations to:
 - a. Support conflict mitigation efforts and monitoring;
 - b. Expand outreach efforts;
 - c. Provide salary cost shares with local groups;
 - d. Provide proper resources for livestock producers to implement appropriate conflict prevention measures on private and public lands;
16. Public and State Land
- i. We recommend the following in grizzly bear occupied areas, as well as areas where grizzly bears are likely to occur:
 - a. Relevant agencies should create consistency around food storage requirements across state and federal lands.
 - b. Bear resistant infrastructure should be available at all federal, state, and local campgrounds, and other public areas.
 - c. Montana Fish, Wildlife and 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.
 - 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.
 - e. Consultation with appropriate agencies and tribal entities should occur during the early stage planning processes for projects that will affect grizzly bear management.
 - f. Establish cooperative monitoring programs between relevant agencies and the public:
 - (1) At public recreation areas as applicable and available.
 - (2) 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.

17. Waste Management/Sanitation

- i. Support the development of consistent local sanitation ordinances that require attractants to be stored in a bear-resistant manner and includes entities for enforcement.
- ii. Encourage counties and local governments to work with local sanitation companies to implement the use of bear-resistant sanitation storage options. Sanitation efforts should be coupled with outreach, monitoring and maintenance of infrastructure.

18. Conflict Response and Protocols

- i. Bear management specialists should be fully funded Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions included in permanent base funding, and each should be provided with year-round technicians. This would:
 - a. Allow for transfer of expertise from bear managers to bear managers in training;
 - b. Improve response time;
 - c. Allow bear managers to be proactive and mitigate conflicts;
 - d. Allow time for relationship building, outreach, and communication with landowners, agriculture producers, and local communities.
- ii. Conflicts should be monitored and reported in a consistent manner across relevant agencies to effectively identify new and/or emerging areas of concern.
- iii. USFWS and relevant agencies should clarify management protocols for conflict bears and continue to share it with landowners, livestock producers, and communities to maximize transparency.
- iv. Relevant agencies should periodically review interagency MOUs for opportunities to improve efficiency and capacity for conflict response.
- v. Strict enforcement of poaching is necessary for the long-term conservation of bears, and stringent fines and enforcement should continue regardless of ESA status.

Grizzly Bear Distribution, Relocation, and Connectivity

19. Allow natural movement to new areas between all four identified recovery zones while protecting habitat. Private landowners and local communities should be prepared to have grizzlies on the landscape and should be encouraged to prevent conflicts and empowered to do so.
20. Relevant agencies should work with relevant 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.
21. If bears are captured outside recovery zones, bear specialists should have the flexibility to move bears to the nearest established relocation site.
22. Any new and existing agreements regarding population augmentation should be evaluated on a regular basis.
23. Encourage voluntary incentive-based conservation like conservation easements, in areas identified as important to wildlife passage.

24. Work with Montana Department of Transportation and Federal Railroad Administration to reduce transportation mortalities, facilitate movement and enhance public safety:
 - i. Work with partners to develop a wildlife transportation safety campaign;
 - ii. Work with appropriate entities to explore ways to minimize train/bear collisions due to grain spills and carcasses near train tracks;
 - iii. Identify and model potentially important grizzly bear crossing points on major highways, and seek funding to incorporate wildlife connectivity into the transportation system as infrastructure upgrades are made.

Resources

The Council recognizes that current grizzly bear management and conservation resources are inadequate. Moreover, the Council sees the issue of resources as the greatest limitation, and therefore the greatest challenge, in working toward its vision of a landscape that supports both grizzly bears and people. Addressing these resource challenges will require a multi-pronged and sustainable approach and needs to include public, private, and philanthropic efforts. The Council kept the issue of resources in mind throughout the process of drafting recommendations, and specific resource-related recommendations are included in the relevant sections of this document.

In an effort to start meeting the broader challenge of providing adequate resources, the Council would like to call attention to several of the most critical needs and suggest several ideas that can be used to inform future conversations. Recognizing that there are numerous, creative ways to meet resource needs, the Council focused much of its discussion on identifying existing gaps and systemic needs. By focusing on broad needs rather than on discrete opportunities, the Council hopes multiple funding pathways will be pursued. The Council feels that by fostering and supporting multiple, coordinated efforts, the state stands the best chance of meeting the resource needs it faces.

Needs:

- A. A greater diversity of funding sources as well as greater stability in the resources generated;
- B. Increased FWP staff capacity to meet the scope and scale of conservation and management needs and opportunities; (see Education and Outreach 9 and Conflict Prevention 13i);
- C. Improved access to, as well as an overall increase in, tools, incentives, and programs for education and outreach and conflict prevention;
- D. Adequate funding for the Montana Livestock Loss Board compensation program;
- E. Increased funding and support for voluntary, incentive-based conservation efforts undertaken by communities and individuals to improve habitat and/or reduce conflicts;
- F. Increased funding and coordination for landscape level wildlife-friendly transportation projects;
- G. Funding and support for community-wide bear-resistant sanitation programs;
- H. Additional public relation efforts around grizzly bear conservation and management are needed.

In addition to identifying these broad needs, the Council developed an initial list of possible sources and ideas to explore to meet these needs. We recognize there are many entities working on this issue in different ways. It would be beneficial for FWP to facilitate further analysis, coordination and communication between partners around the challenge of resources. Ideas discussed by the Council that we felt merited further research, analysis, and discussion included the following:

1. Encourage Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to continue to explore ways to diversify agency funding. This is important to consider as Montana looks at potential income like the Recovering America's Wildlife and Wildlife Corridors Acts and the match that would be necessary to take advantage of these potential new funding opportunities.
2. Grizzly bears are valued by people around the world and are part of the allure of Montana to millions of tourists each year. Analysis on ways to access tourism related dollars is needed. Other states are also exploring this idea and could be a resource in this process.
 - a. Work with Montana Office of Outdoor Recreation to explore ideas for funding wildlife conservation through the rapidly growing outdoor recreation community.
3. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation practices do not currently cover grizzly bear conflict prevention actions. We encourage the NRCS to modify or add new "Conservation Practices:" eg. carcass pickup and composting, electric fencing, livestock guard dogs, range riding, and other conflict prevention tools.
4. Montana State Auditor and Insurance Commissioner should investigate ways for private insurance companies to develop premiums and coverage levies for hobby farms, orchards, buildings, crops, etc.
5. Improved coordination and collaboration to link and leverage existing efforts, tools, and resources and to ensure better prioritization of need
6. Wildlife friendly transportation infrastructure is important to landscape connectivity and requires significant funding. We encourage Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Montana Department of Transportation to continue to work with partners to explore and expand ways to meet connectivity and transportation-related goals. Other states like Wyoming and Colorado have examples that could inform this process.
7. Work with state and national partners to explore the idea of a dedicated federally appropriated grizzly bear conservation fund.
8. In an effort to provide a long term and stable funding source, the Council considered whether a portion of existing tax revenue (e.g., revenue from an existing or expanded resort tax, gas tax, recreation tax, or bed tax) could be targeted toward grizzly bear conservation. None of these was explored in-depth. We encourage broad and inclusive partnerships to continue the exploration of these ideas.
9. Voluntary and/or opt-in fundraiser ideas at both the state and federal level should also be explored as mechanisms to increase funding for grizzly bear conservation and management. This could include things like a stamp or license plate.
10. Explore the use of social media to garner funds for education and outreach programs.
11. Council recommends the continuation of the \$1.38 million federal appropriation Congress allocated in FY20 to pay for nonlethal conflict-prevention specialists employed by Wildlife Services in Montana and other states.
12. The Federal government, state legislature, and public stakeholders should encourage an excise tax on outdoor recreation gear and equipment like the Pittman-Robertson and Dingle-Johnson Acts have done with hunting and fishing gear.

13. Encourage expansion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wolf Livestock Demonstration Grant Project to include grizzly bears, and to increase the annual amount of program funding available.

Role of Hunting

Substantial deliberation was given to the role of hunting; however, because of the diversity of interpretations of available science, backgrounds, values, and opinions individually held by Council members, we cannot reach consensus that hunting has a role in grizzly bear management. The Council received a large number of public comments regarding hunting. The comments also represented a large disparity of views, and were acknowledged in our conversations. Our process is presented as such and includes opposing views and discussion for context and consideration. The conversation on the role of hunting focused on two threads: (1) consideration of the role of hunting; and (2) beyond the question of whether there should be a hunt, what input would the Council like to provide, without consensus, in the event that the FWP Commission moves forward with hunting regulations. See Appendix C.

Draft Appendix:

- A. Governor's Executive Order
- B. Add map four recovery zones/areas for clarification
- C. Role of Hunting
- D. Substantial Commentary
- E. GBAC Notes and Discussion Points
- F. Public Comment
- G. Placeholders

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 9-2019**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING THE
GRIZZLY BEAR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, grizzly bears are valued by people and cultures across Montana and around the world;

WHEREAS, grizzly bears are also feared and can affect people’s livelihoods and safety;

WHEREAS, grizzly bear numbers in Montana continue to increase, and have expanded into areas where they have not been for decades, including places key to connecting their populations;

WHEREAS, despite this success, long-term coexistence of people and grizzly bears across the landscape will remain a challenge;

WHEREAS, existing management plans did not fully anticipate grizzly bear distribution across the landscape and as Montana’s human population continues to grow, we can expect conflicts between bears and people to increase in frequency and complexity;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), the U.S. Forest Service, the National Parks Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Blackfoot Tribe, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, currently manage grizzly bears in Montana as “threatened” under authority of the Endangered Species Act;

WHEREAS, four of the six recovery areas identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan occur in whole or in part within Montana;

WHEREAS, recent litigation has created uncertainty about delisting of grizzly bears from the Endangered Species Act;

WHEREAS, it is timely that Montanans work together to determine how the state and its partners will collectively manage and conserve grizzly bears;

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;

WHEREAS, the future of grizzly bear management in Montana must maintain scientific integrity, and balance diverse interests and values;

WHEREAS, Montana remains committed to maintaining the long-term viability of grizzly bears and balancing their needs with those of people;

WHEREAS, it is important for the public to have ownership and confidence in grizzly bear management in Montana;

WHEREAS, to ensure its citizens have a voice in the future of grizzly bears, Montana must provide meaningful opportunities for people to engage in a public discussion around grizzly bear management, recovery and conservation; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of all Montanans to bring stakeholders and experts together to recommend statewide strategies for conserving and managing grizzly bears for today and the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 2, Chapter 15, MCA, do hereby create the Governor’s Grizzly Bear Conservation and Management Advisory Council (Council).

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Council is to develop recommendations for fundamental guidance and direction on key issues and challenges related to the conservation and management of grizzly bears in Montana, particularly those issues on which there is significant social disagreement.

DUTIES

1. The Council shall produce a Final Report with discrete, actionable recommendations that provides clear and meaningful guidance to the Governor’s Office, FWP, the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and other entities with responsibility for grizzly bear management and conservation in Montana.
2. The Council shall recognize grizzly bear management objectives and existing intra-agency and interagency commitments already in place, including conservation strategies, monitoring protocols, commission policies, recovery plan criteria, and forest plans.
3. The Council shall utilize a transparent process that maximizes engagement among people with diverse values and interests. The Council shall consider public input on its recommendations.
4. The Council’s recommendations shall identify strategies that achieve the following broad, strategic objectives:
 - a) Maintain and enhance human safety;
 - b) Ensure a healthy and sustainable grizzly bear population;
 - c) Improve timely and effective response to conflicts involving grizzly bears;
 - d) Engage all partners in grizzly-related outreach and conflict prevention; and
 - e) Improve intergovernmental, interagency, and tribal coordination.

5. The Council shall have the discretion to examine grizzly bear-related issues that it deems to be important, including at a minimum the following topics critical to its objectives:
 - a) Grizzly bear distribution within Montana (including outside of established recovery zones);
 - b) Connectivity between ecosystems;
 - c) Conflict prevention;
 - d) Response protocols to grizzly conflict in different parts of the state;
 - e) Transplant protocols;
 - f) Role of hunting; and
 - g) Resources for long-term sustainability of grizzly bear conservation.

COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. The Council members shall be solicited through an application process and appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
2. The Council members shall be a cross-section of Montanans representative of different geographic areas and interest categories involved in or affected by grizzly bear conservation and management, including livestock producers, wildlife enthusiasts, conservation groups, hunters, community leaders, tribal members, and outdoor industry professionals.
3. The Governor shall appoint a council member as chairperson.
4. Council members shall serve in an individual capacity.
5. The Office of the Governor, with support from FWP, will engage to further the objectives of this Council. The Council will be attached to FWP for administrative purposes.
6. FWP shall convene an interdisciplinary, interagency technical advisory committee to serve the Council and provide biological, legal, and policy information.
7. The Council may establish procedural bylaws to aid in the performance of its duties.
8. The Council may establish subcommittees comprised of members of the Council to aid in the performance of its duties.

FWP ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. FWP shall provide staff to assist the Council in completing its work.
2. FWP shall make available experts who can support the Council with technical, scientific, social, policy, and legal matters.
3. As the Council begins its work, specific decisions for implementation of management strategies will continue to be the responsibility of FWP.

OTHER

1. The Council may request consultation, information, and technical expertise from directors or their designees of state and federal agencies, the university system, the public, and other entities related to grizzly bear management and conservation.
2. The Council is not a regulatory body; its recommendations are advisory only.

COMPENSATION

All Council members shall be reimbursed for travel, meals, and lodging related to Council duties pursuant to Section 2-15-122, MCA.

DURATION

The Council shall complete its Final Report and provide its recommendations to the Governor by August 31, 2020. The Council shall then disband unless continued by subsequent executive order.

This Order is effective immediately.

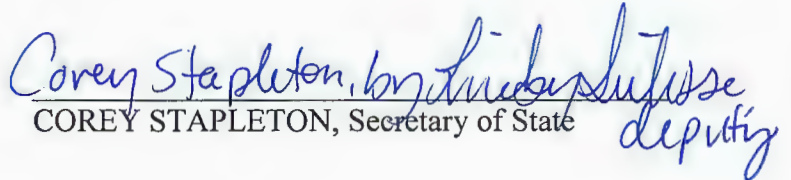


GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 24th day of July 2019.



STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:



COREY STAPLETON, Secretary of State *deputy*

Appendix C

Considerations around the role of hunting

The following bulleted lists represent different perspectives around the role of hunting as brought forward by the Council and members of the public:

Considerations supporting the role of hunting

- 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.
- Female grizzly bears with dependent young, as well as dependent young, should be protected from hunter harvest.
- Hunting season(s) may also be timed to reduce exposure of females to harvest. Early spring and late fall hunts tend to focus hunting pressure on males.
- Dynamic season closure prior to tag delivery based on static population levels.
- Hunting should be limited and follow the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Grizzly bear license fees be modeled on moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats, with the non-refundable drawing fee going to grizzly bear management and conservation.
 - Tags could include a governor's tag to sell and a supertag for everyday people for a chance to draw;
 - Tags be once-in-a-lifetime tags;
 - Out-of-state hunters must have a licensed guide;

Considerations opposing the role of hunting

- Hunting should not be implemented as part of a management strategy for grizzly bears. Grizzly bears should be and need to be managed in perpetuity under regulations similar to what is proposed in the Tribal Heritage and Grizzly Bear Protection Act.
- In consideration of the spiritual and cultural significance of grizzly bears shared by many in Montana, including some Montana Tribes, hunting does not have a role in grizzly bear management.
- Hunting is not a requirement for wildlife management.
- Based on the presentations made to the GGBAC about the role of hunting for bear management as well as well documented independent studies, sufficient data is not available to support hunting as a means to manage grizzly bear populations
- Based on current research and data, the most effective tools for managing bear populations are through robust conflict prevention and coexistence programs with a strong outreach and education component. Existing strategies for management of bear-human conflicts is sufficient if properly resourced. (See resource recommendations in Appendix E.)
- The high level of intrinsic value bestowed upon grizzly bears throughout the world allows funding

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- No baiting or any use of anthropogenic attractants can be used;
 - Hunters should be strongly encouraged to carry bear spray;
 - People that draw a grizzly bear license should be required to participate in training on grizzly bear ecology, identification, and safety;
 - Grizzly bear harvests should be reported immediately
 - Montana has a lengthy history of hunters being at the forefront of wildlife restoration and conservation.
 - Hunters provide essential funding, needed management, and habitat protection that has helped us achieve the wildlife abundance we enjoy today.
 - Nearly every species of wildlife valued by hunters has thrived in our country, in large part due to the strong support and conservation efforts of hunters.
 - Supporters of a hunting season for grizzlies in Montana recognize that a hunt must be scientifically sound, and extremely limited at first. Grizzlies are the second slowest reproducing mammal in North America, and hunting must be planned carefully.
 - The Council recognizes the fact there are council members as well as a segment of the general public who are philosophically opposed to hunting, however we also recognize at the same time that regulated hunting can and does provide a valuable tool to manage grizzly bears and other wildlife.
- and other conservation efforts to come from sources other than the hunting community
 - Comprehensive Scientific studies show that hunting of grizzly bears does not reduce conflicts, enhance human safety, or manage populations
 - Hunting is an impediment to movement and population linkage and threatens the distribution, abundance, and social structure of grizzly bear subpopulations.
 - Grizzly bears occupying the Montana landscape are a valuable economic asset; viewing living bears, or simply being in the same landscape with them, brings in considerable revenue
 - Data trend analysis by the USGS predicts that hunting will decline by 50% in the next ten years. It cannot be relied upon for funding into the future.
 - 71% of the US are against the idea of hunting. Allowing hunting could create a backlash effect on Montana's economy.
 - Hunting does not target problem bears.

The following input (without consensus) around a Montana grizzly bear hunt was part of the Council's discussion:

1. Hunting will not replace the need for conflict prevention.
2. Many council members recognize that hunting has been an important and effective tool in the North American Model of wildlife management, and yet, as a council, we can imagine successful grizzly bear management that does not include hunting.
3. If a hunting season is under consideration, cooperating agencies (USFWS, MTFWP and Tribal wildlife management agencies) should focus on sharing expertise, best available science, knowledge of geographic areas of Montana, and the status of connectivity.

DRAFT