

Montana Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council
Consolidated Recommendations/Guidelines
NEW WRITING TEAM EDITS

Preamble

Montana's heritage is intimately connected to grizzly bears and many indigenous peoples have lived with grizzly bears from time immemorial. The Blackfeet Tribe and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) continue to play essential roles in grizzly bear management and conservation in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MTFWP), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), USDA Wildlife Services, and the National Parks Service (NPS). The Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council (GBAC or the Council) respects and honors this long standing relationship, as well as 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 spiritual value, alongside a recognized ecological importance. The grizzly bears residing in Montana's four recovery ecosystems are considered essential to the continued recovery of the species nationally. 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. The Council recognizes that alongside the wilderness, parks, and protected lands that have provided refuge for grizzly bears over the past century, there is an essential role for local communities and working lands, both public and private, in helping to maintain a landscape capable of supporting both Montanans and grizzlies. 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 conservation of this species from past and ongoing management and cooperation, as well as future conservation and management, could offer the opportunity to make the goal of grizzly bear recovery in all established ecosystems a reality.

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 Montanans that make up the 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. The Council 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 bear populations in the four identified recovery areas 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

The following principles provide the underlying foundational understandings that inform all the Council’s recommendations. These considerations should be accounted for in any decision or process related to grizzly bear management in the state of Montana, and are representative of the communal voice existing among the diverse individual members of the Grizzly Bear Advisory Council.

1. All those living in or visiting Montana should expect the potential presence of grizzly bears on the landscape, and should have access to education, assistance, and resources involved with coexisting with grizzly bears.
2. **An expedited identification of areas between established recovery ecosystems that best contribute to genetic and demographic connectivity is necessary to prioritize resource allocation, focus outreach and education efforts, build social tolerance, and proactively engage local communities and landowners.**
3. The Council recognizes that as expansion occurs outside the four recovery zones in Montana and **landscapes in-between**, MTFWP **and relevant agencies** will have to balance expansion with the need to prioritize resources.
4. The best available science should inform decisions in all aspects of grizzly bear management and conservation.
5. Strategies and tools aimed at proactively preventing or reducing conflicts are often effective, and can be less expensive than compensating for conflict after the fact.
6. Grizzly bear management requires communication, coordination, and timely consultation among governmental agencies, tribal entities, private landowners, and the public.
7. Montana’s diverse landscapes and complex circumstances require flexibility in grizzly bear management decisions.
8. 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.

9. Addressing the challenges to working landscapes, recreationists, and local communities on both public and private lands will require an inclusive and proactive effort.
10. Voluntary, incentive-based conservation efforts on private lands should be encouraged and supported.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. The effects of climate change should be considered when making decisions about grizzly bears.
14. In order to implement our recommendations, relevant agencies will need new funding from diverse entities and sources. Resources are key to the success of all our recommendations. As resources are developed, an awareness that both public and private lands' needs must be considered. Prioritization of these resources is imperative to the success of grizzly bear conservation and management.
15. Grizzly bear conservation is a shared responsibility.

Section I

Section I identifies the Council's recommendations that have the full support and consensus of the 18 Council members.

Education and Outreach

Education and outreach engages all Montanans and visitors in the shared responsibilities of grizzly bear conservation. In order to support, develop, and improve the reach of grizzly bear education and outreach between MTFWP and the public, the Council offers the following recommendations:

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. MTFWP should 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 among 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.
 1. Support bear managers as they create reliable and easy reports¹ of bear sightings near human settlements, towns, and cities.
6. MTFWP should create consistency and timeliness around public access to grizzly bear mortality data across recovery zones².
7. MTFWP, together with partners, should explore ways to inform, promote, and incentivize Bear Aware programs in communities.
8. Relevant agencies should create and use consistent messaging around the use and effectiveness of bear spray.
 1. MTFWP should encourage bear spray distribution and training programs across the state:
 - i. Work with IGBC and professionals in the outdoor industries to provide bear spray and training, and explore best management practices for businesses around bear safety for employees and clients.
 - ii. Partner with outdoor recreation companies and retailers to offer grizzly bear safety training;
 - iii. Coordinate messaging on the efficacy and use of bear spray with the Montana Office of Outdoor Recreation and the Montana Office of Tourism:
 1. Provide a bear identification and safety video including proper use of bear spray and couple it with the bear identification test online.
9. The Governor's office and MTFWP should work to fund and create a full time and permanent Grizzly Bear Information, Education, and Outreach Coordinator to support and contribute to the broader efforts of MTFWP's Wildlife Stewardship Outreach Specialist. The following considerations were identified by the Council for this position, but should be pursued by the appropriate MTFWP staff 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 needed³.
 4. Work with agency partners to address outreach and education needs on public lands;
 5. Continue the MTFWP Grizzly Bear Education and Outreach Summit to:
 - i. Address conflict prevention, resource concerns, and ongoing challenges;
 - ii. Create, report, and share consistent messaging and effective strategies.
 6. Work with the Montana Office of Public Instruction, local teachers, agencies, and tribal partners to create and implement a K-12 grizzly bear curriculum.

Conflict Prevention

Preventing conflicts with grizzly bears is essential to the development of social acceptance and the continued conservation of grizzly bears. Proactive and inclusive efforts to mitigate conflict, in large scale public planning efforts or private endeavors, engage communities, protect private property, maintain human safety, and can be an efficient use of limited resources. The following recommendations are actionable items that can strengthen or support existing efforts:

10. Human/Grizzly Conflicts in and around Developed Areas

- i. In occupied grizzly bear habitat and areas that grizzly bears are likely to occur, MTFWP, along with local, state, federal, and tribal entities should provide guidance for land use planning to prevent human/grizzly conflicts:
 1. 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. MTFWP should make the research, development, and funding of new and innovative tools and techniques for conflict prevention and aversive conditioning a high priority.
- iii. The Governor's office and MTFWP should work with partners to increase access to federal dollars for grizzly bear conservation and management that includes conflict prevention actions⁴.

11. Agriculture

- i. We strongly recommend the Governor's Office and the 2021 Montana Legislature fully fund the Livestock Loss Board (LLB) to provide dedicated conflict prevention dollars in order for the LLB to allocate funding for conflict reduction tools and practices⁵.
- ii. All relevant state and federal agricultural and wildlife agencies should research and make recommendations on best management practices that help reduce depredations on livestock and non-livestock commercial losses.
- iii. MTFWP should streamline the reporting process for livestock conflicts by integrating technology and by making reported livestock conflict information available to the public in real-time so that neighboring farms and ranching can increase vigilance and implementation of conflict mitigation measures.
- iv. MTFWP should work to develop a shared definition of social tolerance for grizzly bears among diverse stakeholders where agricultural producers, including those on tribal lands, are engaged early and often in a process that values the way different cultures acquire knowledge.
- v. Careful, thoughtful, yet prompt, lethal removal of grizzly bears under specific circumstances is an integral part of sharing working lands with grizzly bears and building social tolerance among agricultural producers.

- vi. Grizzly bear management on working lands will not be a static process. Continue regular engagement with working lands managers to inform management and policy in Montana.
- vii. MTFWP should increase and diversify partnerships, funding, and support for community-based groups and other organizations to:
 1. Support conflict mitigation efforts and monitoring;
 2. Expand outreach efforts;
 3. Provide salary cost shares with local groups;
 4. Provide proper resources for livestock producers to implement appropriate conflict prevention measures on private and public lands;
 5. Support efforts that strive to create a collective, inclusive movement and build a common understanding between agricultural producers and urban communities.

12. Public and State Land

- i. In grizzly bear occupied areas, as well as areas where grizzly bears are likely to occur:
 1. Relevant agencies should create consistency around food storage requirements across state and federal lands;
 2. Relevant agencies should work with partners to make bear resistant infrastructure should be available at all federal, state, and local campgrounds, and other public recreation areas;
 3. MTFWP 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 public and state lands;
 4. MTFWP should coordinate with public land managers to develop plans to address the general and seasonal impacts to wildlife from recreational use and to prevent conflicts between grizzly bears and people on the landscape. This should include actionable items⁶, as well as consistent and comprehensive outreach and education;
 - ~~5. Consultation with appropriate agencies and tribal entities should occur during the early stage planning processes for public land projects that will affect grizzly bear management;~~
 6. Establish cooperative conflict monitoring programs between relevant agencies and the public:
 - a. At public recreation areas as applicable and available;
 - b. 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.

13. Waste Management/Sanitation

- i. Support the future development of consistent statewide local sanitation ordinances that require attractants to be stored in a bear-resistant manner and includes entities for enforcement in areas.
- ii. Encourage counties and local governments to work with local sanitation companies to explore the use of bear-resistant sanitation storage options where bears are present or could occur in the future. Sanitation efforts should be coupled with outreach, monitoring, and maintenance of infrastructure.

Conflict Response and Protocols

Timely and consistent conflict response is necessary to maintain the relationships between MTFWP and the communities where grizzly bears exist. Building these relationships prior to conflict will help to promote open communication and sharing of information if the need for response should occur. These recommendations are intended to increase MTFWP and other relevant agencies' abilities to develop and maintain positive engagement with those living with grizzly bears:

1. State legislature and MTFWP should:
 - a. Make bear management specialists Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions included in permanent base funding, and provide each a year-round technician.
 - b. Create more of these fully-funded positions as needed. This would:
 - i. Allow for transfer of expertise from bear managers to bear managers in training;
 - ii. Improve response time;
 - iii. Allow bear managers to be proactive and mitigate conflicts;
 - iv. Allow time for relationship building, outreach, and communication with landowners, agriculture producers, and local communities.
2. Conflicts should be monitored and reported in a consistent manner across relevant agencies to effectively identify new and/or emerging areas of concern.
3. USFWS and relevant agencies should clarify management protocols for conflict bears and continue to share them with landowners, livestock producers, and communities to maximize transparency.
4. Relevant agencies should periodically review interagency MOUs for opportunities to improve efficiency and capacity for conflict response.
5. MTFWP grizzly bear specialists should have the flexibility to relocate or remove grizzly bears that prey on livestock or are otherwise labeled as "problem bears" that are found outside established recovery and connectivity zones.

Grizzly Bear Distribution, Relocation, and Connectivity

Genetic and demographic connectivity among Montana's four recovery zones is necessary for the long term viability of grizzly bear populations in the continental United States. These recommendations intend to balance the continued importance of public lands with the need for the increased support of private lands to meet the requirements for an interconnected metapopulation of grizzly bears in Montana:

14. MTFWP should continue to allow natural movement to new areas between all four identified recovery zones in Montana.
15. MTFWP and all relevant agencies should clearly define the “landscapes in between” the four recovery zones in Montana that are important for genetic and demographic connectivity and the long term sustainability of the grizzly bear.
 1. If the expansion of grizzly bears does not contribute to genetic or demographic connectivity among recovery zones, it dictates special attention, management, and allocation of resources, and those areas need to be clearly articulated in MTFWP management plans.
 2. Any conservation or management plan, strategy, requirement, regulation, or other action shall not infringe upon private property or private rights.
 3. Relevant agencies should analyze likely connectivity areas for current habitat conditions that could support grizzly bear occupancy.
 4. ~~Analysis for relocation sites and connectivity areas should consider large remote areas that already have road densities and habitat security in place that are conducive to grizzly bear occupancy and movement.~~
16. ~~Road density standards and habitat protections should be considered and developed within connectivity areas between recovery zones.~~
17. Relevant agencies should work with pertinent States and Provinces, landowners, agricultural producers, and communities to prioritize the creation of new suitable relocation areas inside and between recovery areas which further the conservation, connection, and recovery of grizzly bears in Montana while ensuring existing land uses are supported.
18. Any new and existing agreements regarding population augmentation should be evaluated on a regular basis.
19. Encourage voluntary incentive-based conservation practices, in areas identified as important to wildlife passage.
20. 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.
21. ~~Strict enforcement of poaching is necessary for the long-term conservation of bears, and stringent fines and enforcement should continue regardless of ESA status.~~

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 long-lasting 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 opportunities⁷;
- C. Improved access to, as well as an overall increase in, tools, incentives, and programs for education and outreach and conflict prevention;
- D. Full funding for the Montana Livestock Loss Board compensation program to compensate ranchers for the losses of livestock to grizzly bears;
- E. Full funding of the Montana Livestock Loss Board's Livestock Loss Reduction and Conflict Mitigation Trust Fund⁸;
- F. Increased funding and support for voluntary, incentive based conservation efforts undertaken by communities and individuals to improve habitat and/or reduce conflicts;
- G. Increased funding and coordination for landscape level wildlife-friendly transportation projects;
- H. Funding and support for community-wide bear-resistant sanitation programs to include ongoing monitoring, outreach, and maintenance;
- I. Additional public relation efforts around grizzly bear conservation and management are needed.
- J. Funding and support for the research and development of new and innovative tools and techniques for conflict prevention and aversive conditioning.
- K. Improved economic equity of sustaining grizzly bears could be attained by distributing the costs of grizzly bear conservation, including livestock protection, conflict mitigation, and livestock depredation compensation across larger groups (i.e. the State of Montana), but more importantly, across the nation in recognition that many of our country's citizens value grizzly bear presence in Montana.

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 MTFWP to facilitate further analysis, coordination, and communication between partners around the challenge of resources. Ideas discussed by the Council that merited further research, analysis, and discussion included the following:

1. MTFWP should 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 part of the allure of Montana, bringing millions of tourists to the state 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. MTFWP should initiate improved coordination and collaboration to link and leverage existing efforts, tools, and resources and to ensure better prioritization of need.
5. Wildlife friendly transportation infrastructure is important to landscape connectivity and requires significant funding. We encourage MTFWP and MTDOT to continue to work with partners to explore and expand ways to meet connectivity and transportation-related goals.
6. Work with state and national partners to explore, create, and implement a dedicated federally appropriated grizzly bear conservation fund.
7. In an effort to provide a long term and stable funding source, the Council considered whether a portion of existing tax revenue⁹ could be targeted toward grizzly bear conservation. None of these were explored in-depth. We encourage broad and inclusive partnerships to continue the exploration of these ideas.
8. 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.
9. Explore the use of social media to garner funds for education and outreach programs.
10. 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.
11. The Federal government, state legislature, and public stakeholders should encourage an excise tax on outdoor recreation gear and equipment like the Pittman-Robertson and Dingel-Johnson Acts have done with hunting and fishing gear.
12. 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.
13. To save agency time and effort, the Council recommends the establishment of a voluntary, inclusive citizen's working group to research funding possibilities and create pathways to obtain them.

Section II

Section II contains guidance from the Council for items that received substantial consideration resulting in majority support, but did not lead to full consensus among the members of the

Council.

Guidance Around the 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 guidance would the Council like to provide, without consensus, in the event that the FWP Commission moves forward with hunting regulations.

Considerations Around the Role of Hunting

The following bulleted lists represent different perspectives on the role of hunting as brought forward by the Council:

Considerations supporting the role of hunting

- In consideration of the spiritual and cultural significance of grizzly bears shared by people in Montana, including some Montana Tribes, hunting has a role in grizzly bear management.
- 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.
- While hunting can be a useful tool in managing grizzly bear populations, it will not replace the need for conflict prevention.
- If a hunting season is under consideration, cooperating agencies (USFWS, MTFWP, and tribal wildlife management agencies) should focus on sharing expertise, best available

Considerations opposing the role of hunting

- In consideration of the spiritual and cultural significance of grizzly bears shared by people in Montana, including some Montana Tribes, hunting does not have a role in grizzly bear management.
- 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.
- Hunting is not a requirement for wildlife management.
- Based on the presentations made to the GBAC 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

science, knowledge of geographic areas of Montana, and the status of connectivity.

- In recovered and delisted grizzly bear populations, we support the use of regulated hunting following the principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation (Geist et al. 2001) as one approach to help manage numbers and distribution of bears to promote coexistence and help minimize conflict.
 - Although specifics regarding the hunting of a recovered grizzly bear population will be unique to the ecosystem and legal jurisdictions involved, we support hunting regulations that reflect the best available science, are adaptable to changing factors, are established in a public process, and are consistent with standards in the ecosystem specific Conservation Strategies.
 - Regulated hunting can and does provide a valuable tool to manage grizzly bears and other wildlife.
 - For reference, 15 of the 18 Council members participated in the MTFWP grizzly bear survey, and 12 answered in support of an eventual grizzly bear hunt in Montana.
 - 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 have helped us achieve the wildlife abundance we enjoy today.
- 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.
- The high level of intrinsic value bestowed upon grizzly bears throughout the world allows funding 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 could be an impediment to movement and population linkage and threatens the distribution, abundance, and social structure of grizzly bear subpopulations without the proper precautions in place.
 - 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.
 - In one nationwide survey, 71% of the 1500 respondents were against the idea of hunting.
 - Hunting does not target problem bears.
 - Hunting iconic carnivores is an emotionally charged issue. Allowing a grizzly hunt in Montana could create backlash to the state's tourism economy.
 - While the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation does strive to conserve wildlife, historically it has at

Council Majority's Guidelines for a Proposed Grizzly Bear Hunt

Following are the Council majority's Guidelines for a Proposed Grizzly Bear Hunt if and when a grizzly bear hunt was to occur in the future. We acknowledge that hunting is not likely to be an effective tool for conflict prevention or reduction.

- We 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.
- **Grizzly bears cannot be killed when more than one grizzly bear is present.**
- 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 should 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;
 - 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.

Draft Appendix:

- A. Governor's Executive Order
- B. Established Recovery Zones in Montana Map
- C. Substantive Commentary
- D. Glossary of Acronyms and Terms
- E. FWP Subdivision

- F. GBAC Notes and Discussion Points
- G. Council Member Biographies
- H. Public Comment

Appendix A

Appendix B

Appendix C

Section I

- Education and Outreach
 - 1 - 5.1
 - For example, the Prairie Bear Monitor page on FaceBook that is updated daily by MTFWP's Wesley Sarmiento and Sarah Zielke.
 - 2 - 6
 - For example, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) database used for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.
- Conflict Prevention
 - 14(i)(4)
 - Encourage reduced maximum group sizes for public and special event use in recovery ecosystems (**this should be zones**)
 - Encourage temporary trail closures and limit special use permits in areas with critical habitat conditions during appropriate times of year
 - Consider future areas of connectivity in land management decisions
 - Require that commercial or special use permit applications include specific plans to meet food storage order regulations, manage and reduce conflicts, contain attractants, and minimize impacts to grizzly bear habitat and food resources.
 - Consider identifying areas of Montana with minimal impacts to grizzly bear habitat and minimal risk of conflict to proactively prepare for participation in recreation planning processes
- Conflict Response and Protocols
- Grizzly Bear Distribution, Relocation, and Connectivity
- Resources

Section II

- Hunting

Appendix D

Acronyms and Glossary of Terms

Acronyms

BLM: Bureau of Land Management
CSKT: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

GBAC: Grizzly Bear Advisory Council
MTFWP: Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
NPS: National Park Service
USFS: U.S. Forest Service
USFWS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
LLB: Livestock Loss Board

Glossary of Terms

Appendix E

Appendix F

Appendix G

Appendix H

Council biographies - please update your biography as a comment. These are copied from the FWP website.

Bret N. Barney, Wyola

Bears have been a part of my life for a long time. Many of my earliest childhood memories are from annual vacations in Yellowstone National Park. A particular memory sticks out: One year a bear came into our camp during lunch, and of course everyone scattered—except for me! I made my way under a nearby picnic table as the bear went on top of the table to eat our lunch. It was a tense few minutes, but I got out safely. And the bear enjoyed a nice meal.

As Wildlife Manager at the Sunlight Ranch Company in the Beartooth Mountains of south-central Montana, I take pride in the fact that our large-scale cattle management program is compatible with diverse wildlife habitat. Sunlight Ranch supports both mule and white-tailed deer, elk, moose, sage grouse, antelope, mountain lions, black bears, and of course, many grizzlies. Under our overarching philosophy at the ranch, each of these species has a place on the landscape. For this reason, it is critical that we strike the right balance of conservation, management, and recovery of the state's grizzly bear population. I want to approach this mission in a way that improves safety and reduces conflict.

Chad Bauer, Missoula

I am a native Montanan and have spent my entire life enjoying the outdoors—hunting, fishing and camping. In my professional career with waste management, I have been involved in bear and garbage conflicts, working with partners in our state for over 25 years to help find solutions to issues.

I am also a long-time Montana Hunter and Bowhunter Education instructor, and as grizzly bears expand into newer areas I believe that we need to focus on teaching our students and next generation of hunters on how to stay safe in bear country. I hope to help find middle ground for managing bears in Montana.

Darrin L. Boss, Havre

I have always been interested in wildlife-agriculture interactions. I really appreciate the dynamics of public/private lands and wildlife/livestock that happen daily in Montana and want to be part of solutions related to these complexities.

I am the Department Head of Montana States University's Research Centers. I am first and foremost a scientist from my training and work experience and have several college degrees in Agriculture and Wildlife Biology and Ecology.

As a member of this Council, I want to listen to various ideas and offer science-based information to the discussion.

Jonathan Bowler, Swan Valley

As part of the community in the Swan Valley of Montana, I am connected to grizzly bears by a shared landscape. This community has a great deal of respect for grizzly bears, and through education, outreach, partnerships, and sharing of knowledge, local residents have learned ways to coexist and mitigate conflict. I have learned a lot from the combined experiences of my neighbors, and I'd like to be able to share those insights while learning from other communities' experiences at the same time.

Trina Jo Bradley, Valier

I was born and raised on the Rocky Mountain Front in grizzly country, so human/grizzly conflicts have been a subject near and dear my entire life. As a livestock producer, my father struggled with depredation and the ever-present danger of living with grizzlies.

My husband and I ranch about 10 miles north of where I grew up, and we are in the same boat. Grizzlies are limiting our daily activities, stressing our cattle and horses, and causing damage. I believe we need tools to manage bears in a way that is best for both grizzlies and the people that live here. I am excited to get to work with this Council so we can put our heads together and come up with a solution that works for all Montanans.

Caroline Byrd, Bozeman

I have a long career in conservation throughout the West, including many years spent living and working in Montana. I applied to this Council because of my enduring interest in the fate of grizzly bears. Ever since first living and working in bear country in the early 1980s, I have studied bears and worked for their conservation and sound management.

Early in my career, I instructed for the National Outdoor Leadership School, sharing my love for outdoor skills and adventure in the Rocky Mountains, Southwest deserts, North Cascades, Canada, Alaska and East Africa. Currently, I am the Executive Director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, and before that I was the Western Montana Program Director for The Nature Conservancy where I worked on the Montana Legacy Project and the Blackfoot Community Project, two landscape-scale conservation efforts. Throughout my career I have worked with a variety of partners and communities to come to long term conservation solutions and am now looking forward to being part of this Council.

Michele Dieterich, Hamilton

I have a great respect for grizzly bears and their role in our world. I applied to the Council with the hope of creating a way for us to peacefully co-exist with the great bruins.

My background is in education and teaching. My first experience was at an orphanage in Guatemala where I taught math and art. I then spent time leading hiking, biking and climbing excursions in the Western US and Alaska. My recent and most challenging adventure has been teaching art to junior high students.

I've called western Montana home for over 30 years and enjoy the sense of community and wild landscape that it offers.

Erin Edge, Missoula

I am the Rockies and Plains Representative for Defenders of Wildlife, based in Missoula, and have over a decade of experience working on grizzly bear conservation issues.

As grizzly bear populations grow and expand into historic habitat my work has been focused in preventing conflicts by finding economically viable and balanced ways that bears and people can share the landscape. I have worked with landowners, agencies and local communities, assisting with projects related to bears and other wildlife.

The outdoors is also a huge and important part of my free time and family time. My family and I like to explore the trails in Western Montana and enjoy finding new adventures through travel.

Nick Gevock, Helena

I've called Montana home for 21 years, and I have been interested and engaged in grizzly bear conservation throughout that time. For 11 years as a newspaper reporter in Bozeman and Butte, I often covered grizzly bear

management, the issues surrounding their Endangered Species Act listing, as well as conflicts and attacks. For the past six years I have worked on measures to reduce conflicts with grizzly bears and on planning for their long-term place on the Montana landscape.

Grizzly bears are one of Montana's most valued native wildlife species, and I'm eager to be involved in their future in the state. I spend a great deal of time in grizzly bear country hunting, fishing, hiking, backpacking and cycling and know the challenges they present.

Lorents Grosfield, Big Timber

I am a third generation cattle rancher and landowner in Sweet Grass County. I served in the Montana Senate for 12 years through the '90s and early 2000s. I have three sons and nine grandchildren.

Although I live in an area not quite yet touched by grizzly issues, I know they are moving into more places in Montana. I know too that there are a lot of Montanans that are very concerned about this prospect, and many are not ready for it. I think that management of this unique species needs to consider all citizens of Montana. I believe that Montana landowners and livestock producers have a responsibility to be engaged, and I am honored to be helping with this process. I have served on several workgroups and committees in the past. In these capacities, we tackled big topics, and I know from this experience that reasonable management suggestions can surface from a well-rounded citizen's group. I look forward to finding reasonable middle ground to assist the wildlife agencies in the management of this difficult issue.

Kameron Kelsey, Gallatin Gateway

Born and raised in the remote Taylor Fork valley, south of Big Sky, MT, I have lived my life in grizzly bear country. My extensive firsthand experience observing the way these bears function in remote environments has given me a base of respect for this animal. Grizzly bears are a part of what makes Montana so special. I believe that it is important to our ecosystem, economy and tourism industry to manage these animals so that they thrive as a species and cohabitate well with Montana's quickly growing population.

For three generations, my family has owned and operated the Nine Quarter Circle Ranch, a dude ranch and outfitting business. My wife and I are excited to take over the ranch this year and continue a legacy of land stewardship, and we look forward to sharing this special corner of the world with others.

Robyn King, Yaak

I am a thirty-two-year resident of the Yaak Valley and one of the founders of Yaak Valley Forest Council. As Director, I manage day-to-day operations and oversee all YVFC programs, including Forest Watch, Headwaters Restoration Partnership Project, Community Development and Conservation Education.

I live in the Cabinet/Yaak Recovery Zone and am deeply committed to the recovery of this population. I'm also deeply committed to finding common ground solutions on historically polarizing issues. Recovered and thriving

grizzly bear populations are not only a Montana treasure and legacy but also a national treasure and legacy. I'd like to be part of a process that supports this effort.

Kristen Kipp, Browning

I am extremely passionate about grizzly bear management because I live in the heart of grizzly and Blackfoot country on the Blackfoot Reservation in Northwestern Montana, where I experience daily grizzly bear interactions.

Historically the Blackfeet and the grizzly bear have co-existed with balance and a respect for one other, while maintaining a healthy population and ensuring a safe environment for our children and community. I am dedicated to working with others to find effective solutions for grizzly bear management.

I love being outdoors, hiking, hunting, taking photos, anything horse-related, and spending time with my two beautiful children.

Cole Mannix, Helena

I applied to be a part of this Council because I believe that how Montanans choose to manage the grizzly bear is a crucial issue in itself and for the future of the landscape.

The issue also hits close to home, since the Blackfoot Valley, where my family's ranch is located, is one of the key areas of private land that is experiencing greatly increased grizzly bear presence.

As Associate Director of Western Landowners Alliance, I live in Helena and work to increase the value Americans place on private land stewardship and to shape policy to better facilitate that stewardship. I am married to Eileen Brennan and have two sons, Finn and Charlie.

Heath Martinell, Dell

I applied to be a member of this Council because I have an interest in the successful management of grizzlies.

As a member of a family ranch, our livelihood depends on the health of the land and animals around us.

My family and those working with us are operating in an increasingly dangerous landscape as bear populations and human conflicts expand. I hope to find balance between a healthy bear population and swift, effective methods of dealing with problems when they arise.

I have been married to my wife, Kiley, for twenty years and we have three kids.

Chuck Roady, Columbia Falls

I applied to be a part of this Council in hopes of reaching solutions for grizzly bear management in Montana. I have lived, worked, and recreated in grizzly bear habitat for most of my adult life.

In my career as a forester and land manager I have had to consider grizzly bears along with a cast of other endangered species for my entire career. As the populations of bears continue to increase and expand beyond

the defined recovery areas, the human – bear interactions will also continue to increase. I think that we must arrive at logical management solutions and be flexible enough to modify those approaches as we learn more in the future.

I believe we must do the best job we can of managing all our natural resources (wildlife, water, vegetation, minerals, etc.) and am honored to be part of a team working on grizzly bear management.

Gregory Schock, St. Ignatius

I owned and operated a dairy farm at the base of the Mission Mountains on the Flathead Indian Reservation for 43 years. During this time I learned how to grow, adapt and change the way that I ran my dairy to better coexist with an increasing number of grizzly bears. The process was not easy and I am still continually challenged in successfully raising livestock and crops, but I do feel that grizzly bears belong in Montana and need to be protected.

I look forward to bringing my first-hand experience farming in grizzly bear country and serving as part of collaborative boards and partnerships to this Council.

I like to be outdoors hiking and fishing, amongst other things. I have been married for 43 years and have four sons and a daughter. Fun fact: I once had 15 different grizzly bears foraging in my 120-acre corn field one fall.

Anne Schuschke, East Glacier

My interest in serving on this Council and in grizzly bears stems from growing up in a wild place. As a native Montanan, I have a deep love & appreciation for where we live; I enjoy the more mindful life mountains and prairies provide.

My childhood was spent romping through the forests and meadows of Northwest Montana looking for bugs, sticks, and feathers while keeping a watchful eye out for bears and lions. I learned good stewardship of the land and its animals from my parents. While helping set up an archery stand I witnessed my first real life bear.

Years later as an adult, I have carved out a unique career path blending education and naturalist work so I can continue to see bears in the wild. I have dedicated the past decade of my time to naturalist work in Glacier and Denali National Parks as well as Churchill, Manitoba. There is nothing I enjoy more than taking people out for a hike, expanding their knowledge and understanding of the natural world and witnessing a love and appreciation grow.

Appendix I