

**Montana Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council**  
**DRAFT Final Report Recommendations and Input**  
**NEW WRITING TEAM EDITS**  
**8.14.20**

**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 (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 Park 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 people 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 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. The 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. As expansion occurs outside the four recovery zones and the landscapes in-between them in Montana, MTFWP and relevant agencies will have to balance this expansion with the need to prioritize resources that support both public and private lands.
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. Strict enforcement of poaching is necessary for the long-term conservation of grizzly bears.
7. Grizzly bear management requires communication, coordination, and timely consultation among governmental agencies, tribal entities, private landowners, and the public.
8. Montana's diverse landscapes and complex circumstances require flexibility in grizzly bear management decisions.

9. 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.
10. Social tolerance is not uniform, it is a complex topic that is dynamic and variable across space and time.
11. Addressing the challenges to working landscapes, recreationists, and local communities on both public and private lands will require an inclusive and proactive effort.
12. Voluntary, incentive-based conservation efforts on private lands should be encouraged and supported.
13. Both genetic and demographic connectivity are 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 habitat, being mindful that biologically suitable does not always mean acceptable.
14. Increasing recreational use on public lands is an emerging challenge to grizzly bear recovery and management and could negatively affect grizzly bear recovery.
15. 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.
16. The effects of climate change should be considered when making decisions about grizzly bears.
17. 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 and utilized, both public and private lands' needs must be considered.
18. Grizzly bear conservation is a shared responsibility.

## **Section I: Council Recommendations**

The following recommendations were crafted with careful consideration and consensus from the 18 Council members.

### **Education and Outreach**

Education and outreach should engage all Montanans and visitors in the shared responsibility 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 as protected 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.
  - a. Support bear managers as they create reliable and easy reports<sup>1</sup> of bear sightings and conflicts near human settlements, towns, and cities.
  - b. Grizzly bear management on working lands will not be a static process. Communication is key to mutual understanding, innovative solutions, and trust. The council recommends regular engagement with working lands managers to inform grizzly bear management and policy.
6. MTFWP, in coordination with relevant agencies, should create consistency and timeliness around public access to grizzly bear mortality data across recovery zones<sup>2</sup>.
7. MTFWP, together with partners, should explore ways to inform, promote, and incentivize Bear Aware programs in communities.
8. Relevant agencies should support educational efforts to build a common understanding of perspectives between agricultural producers and urban communities.
9. Relevant agencies should create and use consistent messaging around the use and effectiveness of bear spray.
  - a. 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 to 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.
10. 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,

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<sup>1</sup> For example, [Prairie Bear Monitor](#) and [Missoula Bears](#) on FaceBook.

<sup>2</sup> For example, the [Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team \(IGBST\)](#) database used for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

but should be pursued by the appropriate MTFWP staff regardless of this position being in place.

- a. 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.
- b. Create a centralized location within MTFWP that includes available resources and a catalog of educational materials;
- c. Coordinate with stakeholders to provide bear safety information and outreach:
  - i. Identify gaps where additional bear safety information and outreach is needed<sup>3</sup>.
- d. Work with agency partners to address outreach and education needs on public lands;
- e. 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.
- f. 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 and Reduction**

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

#### 11. Human/Grizzly Conflicts in and around Developed Areas

- a. In areas where grizzly bears are or may be present,
  - i. MTFWP, along with local, state, federal, and tribal entities should provide guidance for land use planning to prevent human/grizzly conflicts;
  - ii. Proactively recommend actions to governing bodies on how to minimize grizzly bear conflicts;
  - iii. Help local communities identify and use available local grants for conflict prevention;
  - iv. Review and update all MTFWP subdivision recommendations (2012)<sup>4</sup>.
- b. MTFWP and IGBC should make the research, development, and funding of new and innovative tools and techniques for conflict prevention and aversive conditioning a high priority.
- c. 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 actions.

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<sup>3</sup> For example, a need for further coordination with the tourism industry and realtors.

<sup>4</sup> Fish and Wildlife Recommendations for Subdivision Development in Montana. 2012. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/livingWithWildlife/buildingWithWildlife/subdivisionRecommendations/>

## 12. Agriculture

- a. 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 practice.
- b. 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.
- c. Relevant agencies should integrate technology to allow for timely reporting of agricultural conflicts to neighboring farms and ranches.
- d. MTFWP should increase and diversify partnerships, funding, and support for community-based groups and other organizations to:
  - i. Support conflict mitigation efforts and monitoring;
  - ii. Expand outreach efforts;
  - iii. Provide salary cost shares with local groups;
  - iv. Provide proper resources for livestock producers to implement appropriate conflict prevention measures on private and public lands;

## 13. Public and State Land

- a. In areas where grizzly bears are or may be present:
  - i. Relevant agencies should create and enforce consistent food storage requirements across state and federal lands;
  - ii. Relevant agencies should work with partners to make bear resistant infrastructure available at all federal, state, and local campgrounds, and other public recreation areas;
  - iii. 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;
  - iv. 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.
    1. Encourage reduced maximum group sizes for public and special event use in recovery ecosystems.
    2. Encourage temporary trail closures and limit special use permits in areas with critical habitat conditions during appropriate times of year.
    3. Consider future areas of connectivity in land management decisions.
    4. 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.

5. 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
6. **Ensure appropriate and timely analysis for proposed recreation activities in designated core grizzly habitat and connectivity zones on public lands.**

#### 14. Waste Management/Sanitation

- a. In areas where grizzly bears are or may be present:
  - i. MTFWP and relevant agencies should 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 explore the use of bear-resistant sanitation storage options. Sanitation efforts should be coupled with outreach, monitoring, and maintenance of infrastructure.
- b. **Outside of areas where grizzly bears are or may be present:**
  - i. **Communities and planning boards should proactively explore local sanitation practices.**

### **Conflict Response and Protocols**

Timely and consistent conflict response is necessary to build and maintain 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 facilitate positive engagement with those living with grizzly bears.

#### 15. 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.

16. Conflicts should be monitored and reported in a consistent manner across relevant agencies to effectively identify new and/or emerging areas of concern.

17. 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.

18. Relevant agencies should periodically review interagency MOUs for opportunities to improve efficiency and capacity for conflict response.

## **Grizzly Bear Distribution, Relocation, and Connectivity**

Genetic and demographic connectivity among Montana’s four recovery zones is important to 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 involvement of private lands to support our vision for an interconnected metapopulation of grizzly bears in Montana.

19. MTFWP should continue to allow natural movement to new areas between all four identified recovery zones in Montana.
20. 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.
21. MTFWP, in coordination with relevant agencies and through a public process, should evaluate and identify those landscapes that can reasonably be considered important for grizzly bear recovery and connectivity from those that cannot, and clearly distinguish these in its management plan. Such a distinction is necessary for determining appropriate relocation sites between the four recovery zones, as well as for prioritizing resources for outreach and education, transportation upgrades, and conflict prevention, reduction, and response efforts. These decisions should be in accordance with current Conservation Strategies.
22. Relevant agencies should expedite work with landowners, agricultural producers, and communities to prioritize the creation of new suitable relocation areas inside and between recovery ecosystems which further the conservation, connection, and recovery of grizzly bears in Montana while ensuring existing land uses are supported.
23. Any new and existing agreements regarding population augmentation should be evaluated on a regular basis.
24. All transportation entities should coordinate with the Montana Wildlife and Transportation Steering Committee’s efforts and the Federal Railroad Administration to reduce transportation mortalities, facilitate movement, and enhance public safety, including the following:
  - a. Work with partners to develop a wildlife transportation safety campaign.
  - b. Work with appropriate entities to explore ways to minimize train/bear collisions due to grain spills and carcasses near train tracks.
  - c. 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.
  - d. Encourage voluntary incentive-based conservation practices, in areas identified as important to wildlife passage and support allocating state and federal funding for such efforts.

## **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:**

1. A greater diversity of funding sources as well as greater stability in the resources generated;
2. Increased FWP staff capacity to meet the scope and scale of conservation and management needs and opportunities;
3. Education, outreach and conflict prevention need improved access to, as well as an overall increase in resources and the tools necessary for implementation and long term maintenance;
4. Full funding for the Montana Livestock Loss Board compensation program to compensate ranchers for the losses of livestock to grizzly bears;
5. Full funding of the Montana Livestock Loss Board's Livestock Loss Reduction and Conflict Mitigation Trust Fund;
6. Increased funding and support for voluntary, incentive based conservation efforts undertaken by communities and individuals to improve habitat and/or reduce conflicts;
7. Increased funding and coordination for landscape level wildlife-friendly transportation projects;
8. Funding and support for community-wide bear-resistant sanitation programs to include ongoing monitoring, outreach, and maintenance;
9. Additional public relation efforts around grizzly bear conservation and management.
10. Funding and support for grizzly bear research and the development of new and innovative tools and techniques for conflict prevention and aversive conditioning.

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. **Establishing diverse, alternative, and sustainable economic streams would benefit both grizzly bears and people.**
4. 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.
5. MTFWP should initiate 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 MTFWP and MTDOT to continue to work with partners to explore and expand ways to meet connectivity and transportation-related goals.
7. Work with state and national partners to explore, create, and implement 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 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.
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<sup>5</sup>.
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 Dingell-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.
14. 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.

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<sup>5</sup> For example, a wildlife stamp or license plate

## **Section II - Council Input**

### **Council Discussion Around the Role of Hunting**

Section II contains input from the Council for items that received substantial consideration but did not lead to full consensus among the members of the Council.

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**

- A grizzly bear hunt would not take place until they are removed from the federal Endangered Species Act list and put under state management. At that time, a conservative, scientifically-sound hunt of grizzly bears could take place, like other predator species.
- 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 should focus on sharing expertise, best available science, knowledge of geographic areas, and the status of connectivity.
- 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.

#### **Considerations opposing the role of hunting**

- Public comments made to the GBAC show that hunting of grizzly bears is a highly divisive issue. A grizzly bear hunt could be socially divisive at a time when Montanans need to work together in support of conservation, management, and those challenged with living with grizzlies.
- A grizzly bear hunt will not remedy the financial needs of MTFWP for grizzly bear management and could jeopardize public support for alternative funding mechanisms.
- Concern over the implementation of an immediate grizzly bear hunt has contributed to public opposition to removal of ESA protections for grizzly bears in the Northern Rockies.
- Hunting grizzly bears might not increase their acceptance, but scientific evidence does show that increased conflict prevention measures and education increase social acceptance of grizzly bears.
- Scientific evidence shows that low hunter-harvest rates, as would be proposed by FWP, do not

- Regulated hunting can provide a tool to manage grizzly bears.
- 15 of the 18 Council members participated in the MTFWP social science survey concerning grizzly bears, and 12 answered in support of an eventual grizzly bear hunt in Montana.
- Montana has a history of hunters being at the forefront of wildlife restoration and conservation by providing funding, management, and habitat protection that have helped us achieve the wildlife abundance we enjoy today.
- reduce human-bear conflicts or increase the safety of people around grizzly bears.
- Hunting could be an impediment to movement and population linkage and threatens the distribution, abundance, and social structure of grizzly bear subpopulations.
- Scientific evidence shows that heavy hunter harvest can reduce bear numbers and distribution, but the low harvest rates focused on males proposed by FWP would likely play a minor role in managing grizzly populations.
- Hunting does not target problem bears.

### Considerations 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. Acronyms
- D. Council Member Biographies
- E. Public Comment

## **Appendix A**

## **Appendix B**

## **Appendix C**

### **Acronyms**

BLM: Bureau of Land Management  
CSKT: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
GBAC: Grizzly Bear Advisory Council  
IGBC: Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee  
MTFWP: Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
MTDOT: Montana Department of Transportation  
NPS: National Park Service  
USFS: U.S. Forest Service  
USFWS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
LLB: Livestock Loss Board  
NCDE: Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem  
GYE: Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem  
MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

## **Appendix D**

### **Council biographies -**

**Bret Barney**, Wyola. Qualification: Livestock producer. Barney is the Range Detective and Wildlife Manager for Sunlight Ranch Company.

**Chad Bauer**, Missoula. Qualification: Outdoor industry professional. Bauer is Municipal Market Manager for Republic Services.

**Darrin Boss**, Havre. Qualification: Hunter. Boss is the Department Head for the Department of Research Centers for Montana State University.

**Jonathan Bowler**, Condon. Qualification: Conservation group. Bowler is the Education Director for the Swan Valley Connections.

**Trina Jo Bradley**, Valier. Qualification: Livestock producer. Bradley is a Rancher in Pondera County.

**Caroline Byrd**, Bozeman. Qualification: Conservation group. Byrd is a conservation consultant and former Executive Director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition.

**Michele Dieterich**, Hamilton. Qualification: Wildlife enthusiast. Dieterich is a Teacher.

**Erin Edge**, Missoula. Qualification: Conservation group. Edge is a Representative for the Rockies and Plains Program for the Defenders of Wildlife.

**Nick Gevock**, Helena. Qualification: Conservation organization. Gevock is the Conservation Director for the Montana Wildlife Federation.

**Lorents Grosfield**, Big Timber. Qualification: Livestock producer. Grosfield is an Owner/Operator of a Family Cattle Ranch in Sweet Grass County.

**Kameron Kelsey**, Gallatin Gateway. Qualification: Livestock producer. Kelsey is a rancher in Gallatin County.

**Robyn King**, Troy. Qualification: Conservation group. King is the Executive Director of the Yaak Valley Forest Council.

**Kristen Lime**, Browning. Qualification: Tribal member. Lime is a Rancher and Pre-College Advisor for Montana Educational Talent Search.

**Cole Mannix**, Helena. Qualification: Conservation organization. Mannix is the Associate Director of Western Landowners Alliance and is a Rancher in Lewis and Clark County.

**Heath Martinell**, Dell. Qualification: Livestock producer. Martinell is Rancher in Beaverhead County.

**Chuck Roady**, Columbia Falls. Qualification: Community leader. Roady is the Vice President and General Manager for F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Company.

**Gregory Schock**, Saint Ignatius. Qualification: Livestock producer. Schock is the Owner of Schock's Mission View Dairy.

**Anne Schuschke**, East Glacier. Qualification: Outdoor industry professional. Schuschke is a Substitute Teacher and Expedition Leader for Natural Habitat Adventures.

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. I recently stepped down as the Executive Director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC) and am currently a conservation consultant. Before GYC, 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 coexist 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 a senior representative in the Rockies and Plains region for Defenders of Wildlife. I live



in Missoula, MT and have over a decade of experience working on grizzly bear conservation issues. As grizzly bear populations 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 an important part of my free time and family time. We 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 Preble, Browning

I am extremely passionate about grizzly bear conservation and management because I live in the heart of grizzly and Blackfoot country on the Blackfoot Reservation in Northwestern Montana, where we have a very high rate of cattle depredations and other serious conflicts. Historically the Blackfeet and the grizzly bear have coexisted with a balance and respect for one other, while maintaining a healthy Grizzly population and taking necessary action to ensure a safe environment for our community members. I am dedicated to working with others to find effective solutions for improved grizzly bear management. Not only am I an ag producer, homesteader, avid hunter, gardener, photographer, recreationist, and horsewoman, but I am a mother to three beautiful children. My experiences as a mother, daughter and sister, neighbor and friend have been my motivation to find balance and demand change to the process and system that we currently use in Grizzly conservation and management.

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.

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 the Governor's advisory council in hopes of reaching reasonable solutions to the management of Grizzly Bears in Montana. I have lived, worked, and recreated in grizzly bear habitat for most all of my adult life. In my capacity as a professional forester and land manager I have had to learn to deal with the management implications of grizzly bears along with a cast of other endangered species for my entire career. As the populations of grizzly bears continue to increase and expand their distribution beyond the defined recovery areas, the human – bear interactions will also continue to increase. Along with these interactions come the increased liability to humans, to the bears, and to the integrity of the endangered species act. We must arrive at some logical management solutions and be flexible enough to modify those solutions as we learn more in the future, all while balancing social, cultural, biological, and economical factors.

I sincerely think we as a society need to understand the fact that humans are now part of the equation here on earth and we must learn to manage both humans and our wildlife species. I believe it is incumbent upon us to 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 third generation Montanan, I have a deep love and appreciation for where we live; I enjoy the more mindful life mountains, prairies, and all lands between 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. 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. I am a domestic and outdoor partner to John and we are raising a dog, Finndiggity.