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Thank you to each and every member of this team who has taken time out of their lives to be a part of this conversation. I love Montana and everything about it. We are so blessed to live in a state where we have an abundance of wildlife which also includes the majestic grizzly bear. The grizzly bear numbers are healthy, growing, and they are also expanding their ranges into areas that haven't seen this great animal for 100 years. We are so very lucky to share the landscape with these majestic animals.

If it were not for sportsmen and women such as Teddy Roosevelt, we would not be so blessed. President Roosevelt helped to establish the Boone & Crockett Club which was the first conservation group of its kind. This is their Mission Statement as noted on their website.

## B&C Mission

It is the mission of the Boone and Crockett Club to promote the *conservation* [[boone-crockett.org](#)] and management of wildlife, especially big game, and its habitat, to preserve and encourage hunting and to maintain the highest ethical standards of *fair chase* [[boone-crockett.org](#)] and sportsmanship in North America.

This was their mission in the beginning and this mission continues to this day. In addition thanks to sportsman and women there have been many other organizations such as the Boone & Crockett Club who have put not only their dollars, but boots on the ground projects so that our world continues to not only have big-game animals, but birds, fish, and many others so that our children will also be able to enjoy them in our great outdoors. Just a few of these groups are the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Safari Club International, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, The Mule Deer Foundation and so forth. According to my latest Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation magazine the following dollars have been contributed by sportsman and women with taxes they imposed on themselves in the form of licenses and gear so that our wild places remain wild and that we have abundant animal populations.

EXCISE TAXES: Serious Coin for Conservation

\$22 Billion : generated since 1937 for state fish & wildlife agencies

\$1 Billion : revenue per year since 2014

HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES: Another Bonanza for Conservation

\$1.5 Billion : license sales generated in 2015

\$686 Million : fishing licenses

\$821 Million : hunting licenses

Sportsman and women have contributed greatly not only monetarily but in a lot of sweat equity so that WE ALL are able to enjoy the diverseness that is present in our great outdoors of the United States and abroad. I love the outdoors and I love to hunt, fish, trap, camp, and just about anything else you can think of outdoors.

It is my hope that in the near future with the grizzly bear populations continuing to grow that they will be delisted. I also feel very strongly that hunting should be ONE OF THE MANAGEMENT TOOLS that will be used in the future to help manage the populations and they continued growth. There are NO PEOPLE in Montana that care as much about the grizzly bears and their health as do the many women, men, and children who participate in hunting, fishing, and other outdoor pursuits. It is because of people such as these that we will continue our conservation of this great animal and others.

Thank you for your time.

David Walrod