

Wickman, Erik

From: Rob Rich <rlich3@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 12:24 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

Hello,

I am writing to express my dissent with the amendment of proposed rules pertaining to grizzly bears, particularly new rule IV (ARM 12.9.410) "Allowable lethal management of the grizzly bear." I do not believe this threatened species listed on the Endangered Species Act should be a candidate for any lethal take, and I am especially concerned with the dispersion and dilution of the authority to kill a grizzly bear. It is unsound to extend such immense responsibilities for grizzly bear take to livestock owners or other non-department designees, particularly given the extremely vague qualifying threshold of a bear that is "threatening livestock or poses a threat to humans." The nature of a "threat" would vary immensely among those seeking this permit, and this gives me little confidence in the process of verification.

This concern deepens in the first part of 3(c) in rule IV, "where the bear is threatening livestock on public land." I do not agree livestock grazing should be allowable on public land, which is a use that is far too extensive, unmonitored, and potentially abusive for our common natural heritage. It is not right for such a few livestock owners to reap short-term benefits from public land, while the vast majority of public land stakeholders suffer the costs of livestock impacts. This new rule brings those concerns into focus. Public land should be a safe place for wild animals to live wild lives, and their natural processes should not be inhibited by livestock operations that may threaten them.

Preventative, proactive, and non-lethal tools (listed in rule VIII) should be the primary method of mitigating grizzly bear conflicts. In the dire situations where grizzly bears have been habituated and *all* non-lethal methods have been tried without success, lethal take should only be conducted by professional biologists who respect the full consequences of killing a threatened species.

Thank you for considering this comment. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Rob Rich

Wickman, Erik

From: Tristan Sophia <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 5:48 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

Commissioners Montana Fish & Wildlife,

I'm writing to urge you to amend the draft rules permitting livestock owners to kill grizzly bears, and to limit such authority to the livestock owner's private land only.

SB 295 created authority for ranchers to kill grizzly bears "threatening" livestock even, but—unlike a similar permit system for wolves—this bill failed to protect grizzlies on public land from being killed.

While we understand why a rancher might need this authority in their own pasture, public lands are where grizzlies make their home and their living. Public lands are normally managed for multiple uses, including hunting, fish and other recreation—not to prioritize livestock grazing. FWP doesn't allow this for any other species it manages.

At a time when we have made real progress on grizzly bear conservation in some parts of Montana, this extreme measure threatens to set us back. Please amend the grizzly rule and reassure the public that the State of Montana will be a responsible steward of our treasured state animal, the grizzly bear.

Thank you.

Tristan Sophia
tristan9593@gmail.com
PO Box 4412
Butte-Silver Bow, Montana 59701

Wickman, Erik

From: Julie Scott Hancock <outlook_F95E41D632CDF3E1@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2023 5:49 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

Dear MT FWP Director, Commission and staff-

I want to comment on the proposed MT FWP administrative rules for managing grizzly bears should the federal government delist them in Montana from Endangered Species Act protections. I reside west of Red Lodge in Carbon County and we have grizzlies passing through our property along the Beartooth Front, and although these bears are not resident, we value their presence. Having worked around grizzlies in Alaska and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem for over 40 years I believe I have a working knowledge of their habits.

The amendment to the proposed rules requiring ranchers to “try” nonlethal means to deter grizzlies threatening livestock on public lands before they receive a “kill” permit is far too weak and subjective. No grizzly should be killed on public lands – the ranchers are choosing to lease these allotments from the public and the safety of their livestock is not guaranteed. The potential of injured grizzlies is a direct threat to all public land users and allowing for them to be legally shot (with the very real potential for wounding) is unacceptable. In extreme cases where human safety may be endangered, owners should be required to prove and document that they have used nonlethal means to deter grizzlies, and killing of the bear must be undergone after some defined type of impartial review and in the presence of FWP bear management specialists.

The rules should be further amended to require proof and documentation of nonlethal means of deterrence on private lands before the bear can be killed. – again in the presence of FWP bear management specialists.

The proposed administrative rules must also more objectively define “threatening to livestock” to include specific behaviors. As anyone knows who has resided in grizzly country, “threatening” is not the same as “presence”, “passing through” or “feeding on an elk or deer carcass.”

So, please revisit these proposed rules and prohibit killing of grizzlies on our public lands, tighten restrictions on killing grizzlies on private lands, and define “threatening to livestock” much more objectively and concretely.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Scott Hancock
P.O. Box 883
Red Lodge, MT 59068
406-222-2702

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

Wickman, Erik

From: Tristen Shinnick <rattler66@charter.net>
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2023 2:48 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

Commissioners Montana Fish & Wildlife,

I'm writing to urge you to amend the draft rules permitting livestock owners to kill grizzly bears, and to limit such authority to the livestock owner's private land only.

SB 295 created authority for ranchers to kill grizzly bears "threatening" livestock even, but—unlike a similar permit system for wolves—this bill failed to protect grizzlies on public land from being killed.

While we understand why a rancher might need this authority in their own pasture, public lands are where grizzlies make their home and their living. Public lands are normally managed for multiple uses, including hunting, fish and other recreation—not to prioritize livestock grazing. FWP doesn't allow this for any other species it manages.

At a time when we have made real progress on grizzly bear conservation in some parts of Montana, this extreme measure threatens to set us back. Please amend the grizzly rule and reassure the public that the State of Montana will be a responsible steward of our treasured state animal, the grizzly bear.

Thank you.

Tristen Shinnick
rattler66@charter.net
4710 N Montana Ave
HELENA, Montana 59602

Wickman, Erik

From: Nick Gistaro <ngistaro@pacbell.net>
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2023 3:57 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

Commissioners Montana Fish & Wildlife,

I'm writing to urge you to amend the draft rules permitting livestock owners to kill grizzly bears, and to limit such authority to the livestock owner's private land only.

SB 295 created authority for ranchers to kill grizzly bears "threatening" livestock even, but—unlike a similar permit system for wolves—this bill failed to protect grizzlies on public land from being killed.

While we understand why a rancher might need this authority in their own pasture, public lands are where grizzlies make their home and their living. Public lands are normally managed for multiple uses, including hunting, fish and other recreation—not to prioritize livestock grazing. FWP doesn't allow this for any other species it manages.

At a time when we have made real progress on grizzly bear conservation in some parts of Montana, this extreme measure threatens to set us back. Please amend the grizzly rule and reassure the public that the State of Montana will be a responsible steward of our treasured state animal, the grizzly bear.

My biggest concern is that this type of legislation is not regulated
The criteria for shooting a problem. Bear is not defined.

The mere presence of the Grizzly, without proof of predation on livestock, does not seem to be enumerated in this legislation

I fear is that it will be open season on grizzly bears

Public lands means just that. the ranchers even though they have lease agreements does not give them the right to take a public resource without diligent oversight

Thank you.

Nick Gistaro
ngistaro@pacbell.net

26382 Red Owl Trail
Bigfork , Montana 59911

Wickman, Erik

From: Darcie Warden <dwarden406@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2023 9:39 AM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM
Attachments: RVSA comments Grizzly ARM_ Final.pdf

Dear Director Temple and Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission,

The Ruby Valley Strategic Alliance is submitting our comment letter regarding the Grizzly ARM.

We appreciate this opportunity to contribute our collective voices to this very important issue.

We look forward to continued engagement as you move through this process.

Best,

Darcie Warden
Ruby Valley Strategic Alliance
Chief Management Officer
406-595-0126

Wickman, Erik

From: Kate Stone <kstone@mpgranch.com>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 4:45 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM comments

I do not support any language that would allow a livestock owner to shoot a grizzly bear in defense of livestock occurring on public land. Furthermore, I do support language that would require livestock owners to implement non-lethal protection strategies on both public and private land prior to or in advance of any lethal measures they or wildlife managers might take.

Sincerely, Katharine Stone
Ecologist, MPG Ranch

629 Middle Burnt Fork Rd
Stevensville, MT 59870

Wickman, Erik

From: Susan Lake <jlake@ronan.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 9:16 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Dear Montana Fish Wildlife & P Commissioners,

I am a Montana farmer and rancher from ___Ronan Montana_____. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft administrative rule regarding grizzly bear management. I supported Senate Bill 295 and support the rule making process moving forward regarding the now law. I felt the original rule was a fair compromise offering protections for both a healthy grizzly bear population and the safety of those that live and ranch in bear country. I would recommend moving forward with the original language without the addition of the amendment made at the commission meeting in August.

The amendment removes a degree of clarity for producers like me and creates strenuous patchwork management to work within. Many of us today utilize preventative measures and will continue to. Many of the preventative measures are not viable options on public lands. The original rule was written with this in mind which I appreciated. Additionally, the rule lacks clarity on what qualifies as a preventative measure and leaves it up to the sole discretion of the Department to determine if efforts made were sufficient to justify a take. Take "increased human presence" for example, if someone has a grazing allotment and employs a shepherd to stay with the sheep would that be an increase in human presence or viewed as normal practice? This amendment leaves it at the department's sole discretion to determine if a rancher has acted outside the rule's scope.

Overall, this amendment leaves ranchers like me in a dangerous place. Incentivizing us to take preventative actions, such as hazing, with a grizzly bear that is acting aggressive or risking criminal charges. Not prioritizing human safety is bad for the public and the grizzly bear. Farmers and ranchers are not looking to start recklessly eliminating bears, whether they are on public or private land. Making it more difficult to manage bears depending on their location will have no benefit to the species but will definitely be harmful to humans and their livestock. Please consider moving the rule forward without the amendment, prioritizing my safety and livestock's safety even on public land.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Lake
59969 US Highway 93
Ronan, MT 59864
jlake@ronan.net

Wickman, Erik

From: Cheryl Kindschy <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 6:31 AM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

Commissioners Montana Fish & Wildlife,

I'm writing to urge you to amend the draft rules permitting livestock owners to kill grizzly bears, and to limit such authority to the livestock owner's private land only.

SB 295 created authority for ranchers to kill grizzly bears "threatening" livestock even, but—unlike a similar permit system for wolves—this bill failed to protect grizzlies on public land from being killed.

While we understand why a rancher might need this authority in their own pasture, public lands are where grizzlies make their home and their living. Public lands are normally managed for multiple uses, including hunting, fish and other recreation—not to prioritize livestock grazing. FWP doesn't allow this for any other species it manages.

At a time when we have made real progress on grizzly bear conservation in some parts of Montana, this extreme measure threatens to set us back. Please amend the grizzly rule and reassure the public that the State of Montana will be a responsible steward of our treasured state animal, the grizzly bear.

Remember ranchers public land belongs to wildlife and the cows are an invasive species. Best you move off public land and place your herd on your own land. Ranchers have a habit of Food stamps and let me the public to pay their very small bill.

Get off public land and do not kill these grizzlies who are the ones who really own the area you are trying to park on

Thank you.

Cheryl Kindschy
kindschyca@gmail.com

801 11 th Ave
Helena, Montana 69601

Wickman, Erik

From: Brooke Shifrin <bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org>
Sent: Sunday, November 19, 2023 7:47 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM
Attachments: GYC comments Grizzly ARM- Final.pdf

Hello-

Please see attached for comments from the Greater Yellowstone Coalition regarding the adoption of new rules and amendment of ARM 12.9.1401 pertaining to grizzly bears. Thank you for considering our input, and for the opportunity to comment.

Best,
Brooke



Brooke Shifrin | *Wildlife Conservation Coordinator* | *She/Her*
Greater Yellowstone Coalition | GreaterYellowstone.org [greateryellowstone.org] | 406.586.1593

 [[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)]  [twitter.com]  [[instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com)]

Wickman, Erik

From: Jesse Ford <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 7:47 AM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

Commissioners Montana Fish & Wildlife,

I'm writing to urge you to amend the draft rules permitting livestock owners to kill grizzly bears, and to limit such authority to the livestock owner's private land only.

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At a time when we have made real progress on grizzly bear conservation in some parts of Montana, this extreme measure threatens to set us back. Please amend the grizzly rule and reassure the public that the State of Montana will be a responsible steward of our treasured state animal, the grizzly bear.

Thank you.

Jesse Ford
fordo19@yahoo.com
PO Box 8605 Missoula, MT
MISSOULA, Montana 59807

Wickman, Erik

From: Jim Costello <jimacostello@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 19, 2023 4:53 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly bear ARM

to MFWP (grizzly bear)

I live in Trout Creek, Sanders County Montana, and have done so for almost 50-years. I have seen countless grizzly bears on the trail within the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness and vicinity over that timeframe. Not once have I felt threatened, nor have I overreacted in those situations. Reading over the document I have several comments.

While I have been in reasonably close proximity to the bears, they were never considered a threat. Proximity is not equal to a threat. The document is inviting an overreaction by novices who because a bear is in view, they consider it a threat. It also allows those who dislike the species an opportunity to eliminate a bear under cover of the MFWP.

Livestock on public land should not be governed by the same rules on take as those on private land. There is an inherent risk grazing on public lands in grizzly country that should favor the bear in most instances.

This proposed process eliminates any understanding and acceptance of grizzly bear behavior. No longer will the public or livestock producers be required to take safeguards and be prudent when using the backcountry for recreation or for commercial purposes. Grizzly bear will be taken just for being in the vicinity of a hunter/rancher/home owner/livestock.

Problem bears should still be handled with a permit and under the oversight of MFWP. Otherwise, we will lose sight and control of exactly how many bears have been shot and under what conditions, could lethal means have been avoided with a little prudence and common sense.

It for these reasons I oppose state control and think the species should remain under federal control at this time. Thank you.

Jim Costello
P.O. Box 1406
Trout Creek, Montana
406-827-4896

Wickman, Erik

From: Carole Deech <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:32 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

Commissioners Montana Fish & Wildlife,

I'm writing to urge you to amend the draft rules permitting livestock owners to kill grizzly bears, and to limit such authority to the livestock owner's private land only.

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Thank you.

Carole Deech
cdeech31@gmail.com
757 Edison Ave
Bronx, New York 10465

Wickman, Erik

From: Benson, Pam on behalf of FWP Wildlife
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 4:34 PM
To: Fino, Samantha
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This one was quarantined. I released it. Saved it to the file under Grizzly Bear ARM

Pam Benson
Administrative Assistant
Wildlife Division
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 444-2612
Montana FWP | Montana Outdoors Magazine | Montana WILD

-----Original Message-----

From: Russ Miner <russel.miner@legmt.com>
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:52 AM
To: FWP Wildlife <fwpwld@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Dear Montana Fish Wildlife & P Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft administrative rule regarding grizzly bear management. I supported Senate Bill 295 and support the rule making process moving forward regarding the now law. I felt the original rule was a fair compromise offering protections for both a healthy grizzly bear population and the safety of those that live and work in bear country. I would recommend moving forward with the original language without the addition of the amendment made at the commission meeting in August.

The amendment removes a degree of clarity for producers and creates strenuous patchwork management to work within. The original rule was written with this in mind which I appreciated. Additionally, the rule lacks clarity on what qualifies as a preventative measure and leaves it up to the sole discretion of the Department to determine if efforts made were sufficient to justify a take. This amendment leaves it at the department's sole discretion to determine if a rancher has acted outside the rule's scope.

Overall, this amendment leaves farmers and ranchers in a dangerous place. Incentivizing preventative actions, such as hazing, with a grizzly bear that is acting aggressive or risking criminal charges. Not prioritizing human safety is bad for the public and the grizzly bear. Farmers and ranchers are not looking to start recklessly eliminating bears, whether they are on public or private land. Making it more difficult to manage bears depending on their location will have no benefit

to the species but will definitely be harmful to humans and livestock. Please consider moving the rule forward without the amendment, prioritizing human safety and livestock's safety even on public land.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Russ Miner
1350 55th Ave S
Great Falls, MT 59405
russel.miner@legmt.com

Wickman, Erik

From: Kreamer, Morgan on behalf of FWP Wildlife
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2023 11:32 AM
To: Fino, Samantha
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Shooting Grizzlies?

Do you want this in the same folder?

From: Peter Guynn <peter.guynn51@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2023 11:10 AM
To: FWP Wildlife <fwpwld@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Shooting Grizzlies?

Dear Sirs

Absolutely no shooting of any bears threatening livestock. This was already agreed in the Aug 17 FWP meeting, as a small concession to the majority who were there to contest all the anti predator pro hunting and ranchers who even as a minority of the public control the FWP. These groups are out of control; the welfare ranchers collect subsidies to graze on public lands for nothing, now they want to take over the public ownership by killing anything that gets in their way. An FWP commissioner that owns a hunting business in Region 1 and got the "quota" system in to get more out of staters in (more \$). What more is there to describe the Montana FWP? Well, no more salmon in Flathead lake, and soon to be no more grizzlies and wolves!! And hunting industry beware of your bedfellows in the FWP. Soon cattle will be replacing all the Elk and deer that the FWP says is out there. Montana is already getting known as not having any "big game" left nationally. Thank you for paying attention

Peter C Guynn
Condon Mt

Wickman, Erik

From: Kreamer, Morgan on behalf of FWP Wildlife
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 9:07 AM
To: Benson, Pam
Subject: FW: Grizzly Bear ARM
Attachments: 20231114_(Signed) MWGA Comments re Grizzly Bear ARM.pdf

From: Calli Michaels <cmichaels@mlawmt.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:41 AM
To: FWP Wildlife <fwpwld@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

Please find attached comments from the Montana Wool Growers Association pertaining to the proposed grizzly bear rules.

Thank you,
Calli J. Michaels
Public Affairs Director
Montana Wool Growers Association

Calli J. Michaels, Attorney
MICHAELS LAW, PLLC
PO Box 1388
Dillon, MT 59725
(406) 660-4265

This message may contain confidential privileged material, including attorney-client communications and attorney work product. This electronic transmission does not constitute a waiver of privilege. Please contact sender immediately if you have received this message in error. Thank you.

Wickman, Erik

From: Ali Van Zee <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:38 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

Commissioners Montana Fish & Wildlife,

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SB 295 created authority for ranchers to kill grizzly bears "threatening" livestock even, but—unlike a similar permit system for wolves—this bill failed to protect grizzlies on public land from being killed.

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Thank you.

Ali Van Zee
yourali747@gmail.com
545 N Harold St
Fort Bragg, California 95437

Wickman, Erik

From: Jeff DiBo <jp_dibenedetto@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:17 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

I am writing to comment on the Grizzly Bear ARM.

I support emphasis on non-lethal methods to manage grizzly bears in areas where they co-mingle with livestock as outlined in Grizzly Bear ARM, NEW RULE VIII (ARM 12.9.1411) ALLOWABLE NON-LETHAL MEASURES OR PREVENTATIVE MEASURES OF THE GRIZZLY BEAR (1) As allowed by 87-5-301 and 87-6-106(4), MCA.

Non-lethal measures should be emphasized on public lands and lethal measures denied. Public lands are lands owned by the public as is all wildlife. Preferential treatment and authorization to use lethal methods by public land permittees should not be allowed. Public land permittees pay ridiculously low grazing fees for the privilege, not a right, to graze their livestock on federally managed public lands. In exchange for the low fees, they are or should be required place emphasis on protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat and species including predators.

For this reason I am opposed to NEW RULE VII (ARM 12.9.1410) ALLOWABLE LETHAL MANAGEMENT OF THE GRIZZLY BEAR (1) The commission authorizes the department to use lethal control of depredating grizzly bears. Specifically section (2) Pursuant to 87-5-301(3), MCA, a livestock owner or other authorized person may take, without a permit or license, a grizzly bear that is attacking or killing livestock. Take by a livestock owner or other authorized person is limited to those areas that a livestock owner's livestock are legally authorized to be.

Allowing private citizens to kill FWP-managed wildlife out of season on public lands without a permit is not warranted. Especially for a slow reproducing and mortality sensitive species such as Grizzly bears. On public lands protection of grizzly bears and their habitat should take precedence over private interests. There are mechanisms and protocols in place to deal with a problem bear if one is determined to be continuing problem.

Jeff Dibenedetto
317 Haggin South Ave.
Red Lodge, Montana
jp_dibenedetto@msn.com

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:jp_dibenedetto@msn.com) for Windows

Wickman, Erik

From: Gregory Price <gardengriz@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 4:22 PM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear ARM

My name is Greg Price, I have lived in Missoula for 28yrs and have hunted for the past 20yrs. I think that livestock operations should absolutely have to show they are using non-lethal prevention measures before being issued a permit to kill a grizzly bear on private land. On public land no kill permits should be issued, wildlife should take precedence over private interests. In the event that predation becomes a problem on a public lease, the leasee should withdrawal the livestock to a safer place. Public land is for public wildlife, but there is room for private grazing under certain circumstances. Things are way out of balance in favor of anthropocentric interests, and this rule proposal furthers this imbalance. No kill permits on public land! Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Greg Price

Wickman, Erik

From: ChrisandPam Scranton <pamnchris82@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2023 6:18 AM
To: FWP Wildlife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Grizzly Bear Management

I am a hunter, birdwatcher, fisherman and general public land user. I know that when I am out on public lands in Montana I need to always be aware that grizzly encounters are possible. If I get a game animal down I need to get it out of the field as soon as possible. In my opinion grizzlies are an integral part of the ecosystem and I appreciate the enhanced awareness when I am in the field.

If grizzlies are delisted they need to be managed scientifically and as publicly owned wildlife the public needs to have a say in their management. Delisting should not be a green light to make it easier to kill grizzlies especially on public land. Ranchers should not be issued kill permits for a problem bear until **nonlethal measures are taken first**. A kill permit should be a last resort and FWP should be involved if this decision is made.

Based upon FWP's recent debacle with wolf "management" I am not supportive of delisting grizzlies. If they are delisted sustainable populations need to be scientifically managed. If hunting is eventually allowed tags need to be limited based on population data and there should be a hefty fee involved with that money used to enhance management, connectivity of range etc.... Let's face it, if you want to hunt a grizzly it is trophy hunting. People would not be hunting to put meat on the table.

Chris Scranton, Stevensville, MT