



OPPOSING THE GRIZZLY TROPHY HUNT – HELPFUL TALKING POINTS

The state of Wyoming has proposed hunting 24 bears in the fall of 2018, including 12 in the core habitat. Those 12 are the maximum allowed under an agreement with Montana, Idaho and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

This is not the careful, conservative approach to grizzly hunting the state has been promising for months. Montana decided to forego a hunt this fall; Wyoming should too.

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly population of approximately 700 has been stable for more than 10 years. It is not growing. There is no biological or ecological need to hunt grizzlies to “control” their numbers.

Wyoming should maintain this population that took more than 40 years to grow from approximately 140.

While the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has proposed a buffer zone on the east side of Grand Teton National Park to protect popular roadside bears; no such buffer is proposed for Yellowstone National Park. Also, some male park bears’ ranges likely are outside the buffer.

Any buffer surrounding the parks must be large enough to protect all bears moving in and out of our parks.

With climate change causing so much uncertainty for the future of grizzlies and other wildlife, hunting grizzlies is foolish and reckless.

Record numbers of grizzlies have been dying in recent years, due largely to conflicts with livestock. Many of these conflicts can be avoided.

Wyoming needs to insist that ranchers take measures to reduce and prevent conflicts.

With a fall hunt, females who chased off their older cubs in the spring to mate again will not be distinguishable from male bears. Pregnant females could be killed.

For this reason, a fall hunt is a bad idea.

In the fall, elk hunters leave gut piles when they field dress their kills. This attracts bears who have learned hunters' behaviors.

Wyoming should prohibit this because it essentially is bait that can attract grizzlies while hunters wait nearby.

Fall is a time when grizzlies are racing to put on weight prior to hibernation. They don't need the stress of hunting then.

Wyoming should not stress bears, especially pregnant females, through hunting in the fall.

In some instances, grizzly baiting will be allowed.

Baiting is unethical, inhumane and does not represent "fair chase." This should be prohibited.

Outside of grizzly core habitat, called the Demographic Monitoring Area, Wyoming can kill as many bears as it wishes.

Wyoming should allow these bears to expand into suitable habitat and not try to unnecessarily confine the population.

Wyoming's claim that hunting will change grizzly behavior because they will learn to fear people is unsupported by any science and a ridiculous claim. A dead bear learns nothing.

Recognizing the economic importance of wildlife watching, especially grizzlies, to the community and region, The Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce has opposed hunting grizzlies.

The state of Wyoming should respect the wishes of businesses and citizens in Jackson Hole and surrounding communities. Bears are worth more alive than dead.

You can submit comments by April 30 online or by snail mail.

https://wgfd.wyo.gov/WGFD_WebSurvey/CommentOnly.aspx

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For more information, please visit www.WyoWild.org or reach out to our staff at info@WyoWild.org.