

**Subj: Draft Recommendations from Hunter-related Grizzly Bear**  
**Date: 3/26/2001 1:28:37 AM Mountain Standard Time**  
**From: tkaminski@fs.fed.us (Timothy J Kaminski/R4/USDAFS)**  
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**File: YES\_Subgroup\_Mort\_20March\_Recomm.doc (98304 bytes) DL Time (28800 bps): < 1 minute**

(See attached file: YES\_Subgroup\_Mort\_20March\_Recomm.doc)

Attached are the draft recommendations. I tried but could not get them out from Bozeman. So, I drove back to Jackson to mail. I apologize for not getting them to you sooner. The Conference call is scheduled for 1 p.m. as planned tomorrow. I have scheduled 90 minutes....hopefully, we're done sooner. Please look these over and give some thought. Purpose of the call is in the notes. I'll be sending out the March 20-21 meeting notes after the YES meeting for those interested. Once again, many thanks to all who were able to attend and participate. best regards, timothy

----- Headers -----

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Subject: Draft Recommendations from Hunter-related Grizzly Bear Mortality Subgroup, March 20-21/Bozeman  
To: mark\_wilson@fws.gov, Tmazzgrizz@aol.com, "carl" <carl.jhalliance@notes.fs.fed.us>, ljdorsey@aol.com, tsteven@greateryellowstone.org, millers@nwf.org, "Kim R Barber/R2/USDAFS" <krbarber@fs.fed.us>, dmmody@state.wy.us, dhamme@state.wy.us, mbrusc@state.wy.us, "Laird A Robinson/R1/USDAFS" <larobinson@fs.fed.us>, kfrey@montana.edu, grizz@selway.umt.edu, larry\_dickerson@fws.gov, terry\_root@fws.gov, kerry\_gunther@nps.gov, sj@wyoming.com, tom@rmef.org, sshagen@netcommander.com, jberger@wyoming.com, herrero@ucalgary.ca, wigs@cadvision.com, "Dan Tyers/R1/USDAFS" <dtyers@fs.fed.us>, Rebecca@Mtbeef.org, lenc@verinet.com, hans@wavecom.net, Fischer49@aol.com, ahrosenbaum@wyoming.com, talt@wtp.net, Ljgrocholski@cs.com, "Jay Gore/R1/USDAFS" <jgore@fs.fed.us>, ccs@montana.edu, wildgriz@aol.com, d.dawson@fs.fed.us  
Cc: "Kniffy N. Hamilton/R4/USDAFS" <khamilton@fs.fed.us>,



**To: Participants; YES Hunter-related Mortality Subgroup**  
**From: Timmothy Kaminski for Kniffy Hamilton**  
**RE: March 20-21 Meeting Notes**  
**Date: Friday p.m., March 23, 2001**

I have been asked to pass along a sincere thanks on Kniffy's behalf to all of the Subgroup participants for their time and efforts toward a productive meeting this week. It was gratifying to have such knowledgeable and experienced people as yourselves give time and effort to this interest. If acted upon, your efforts will contribute to preventing avoidable bear mortalities, improving human safety, and tangible improvements toward making hunting and grizzly bear conservation compatible. Lets work together to move words to actions.

Following are the notes from our March 20-21 meeting. I have included details for our 1 p.m. conference call on Monday, March 26.

I tried but was not able to complete and mail out our notes prior to the close of business on Friday. I apologize. I am still having some difficulties in getting this information to you from Bozeman during the weekend. I hope now to get the notes to you by late Saturday/early Sunday for your review.

Because I am away from our office in Jackson, my only "working" option is to email and/or fax the notes from Kinkos in Bozeman. If there is anyone who does not receive all of the notes, or if you cannot open the document, please call me at 307-739-5537 and leave a message. I will find some method for getting the document to you as soon as possible. A backup option is for you to call the SO in Jackson on Monday morning and speak with Patty Bills; she will have the document and cannot mail it before Monday morning.

**A. March 26 Conference call:**

Our conference call is scheduled for 1-2:30 p.m. on Monday, March 26.

To access the discussion, you will need to call: 1-888-323-9808

Lead: Kniffy Hamilton

Pass Code: "Grizzly"

Confirmation number: 3803529

Time allotted for Call: 90 minutes.

Number of participants: up to 30

Two purposes are identified for our call:

1. Review of Draft Recommendations (75 minutes):
  - a. Clarification and Corrections;
  - b. Comments from those unable to Attend Bozeman Meeting
  - c. Comments by Bozeman Meeting Participants
  - d. Closing discussion
  - e. Finalize Recommendations for April 3 presentation to YES
  
2. Brief Overview of PowerPoint Presentation to YES on April 3 (15 minutes):  
Recommendations to reduce hunter-related mortality to Grizzly bears in Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem



## **B. March 20-21 Notes and DRAFT Recommendations**

### March 20

The meeting on March 20 began with comments and clarification on items of discussion from the 23 Conference call that were missed or inappropriately noted. Refer to the name of the commenter.

Issue 1: Is there a hunting-related grizzly bear mortality problem ?

Harold Turner *Page 1; Line 7*

**Change** “Believes more bears are shifting *fall* food habits to meat diet” ...**to** ...  
“Believes more bears are shifting *year ‘round* food habits to meat diet.”

Dwayne Hagen *Page 1; Line 2*

**Change** “Believes Wyoming Outfitter and Guides *Board* is doing a good job at this” ...**to** ...  
“Believes Wyoming Outfitter and Guides *Association* is doing a good job at this”.

Mr. Dennie Hammer, Information and Education Specialist, Wyoming Game and Fish Department; Mr. Tom Alt and Mr. Gary Grocholski, Volunteer Conservation Education Instructors, Custer National Forest each gave helpful presentations to the Subgroup regarding information and education efforts in progress, and needs for future improvement.

Dr. Dan Tyers, Wildlife Biologist, Gallatin National Forest, and Dr. Charles Schwarz and Mark Haroldson, Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, also gave exceptional presentations to the Subgroup on factors contributing to hunter-related grizzly bear mortality on March 20. Notes and key messages from these presenters will be available in April. A total of twenty-eight people attended; not all of these were in attendance both days.

### **March 21 Subgroup Recommendations**

After presentations and some discussion on March 20, the group agreed to change the proposed format for breakout groups. In the end, our efforts focused on two broad topic categories: Education and Management. The intent was for each breakout group to address these topics. One of the groups focused the majority of its’ time on education efforts. Predictably, a fair amount of overlap in issues, discussion, and recommendations resulted from the two breakout discussions. In addition, there was overlap of “education” and “management” issues, suggesting that in some issue areas, the two are closely related. Attached is a compilation of all issues and recommendations suggested.

At the close of our efforts on March 21, Subgroup participants individually identified seven recommendations they believed to be the highest priorities. This was done under less than optimum circumstances (paint/glue fumes resulted in a subsequent room change to smaller area). Because the room we moved to was too small to post all of the tablets on walls, voting was done using the Education Recommendations completed by Group 2, and Management Recommendations identified by Group 1. In the interest of time, only 7 “priority” votes were available to participants. That is, there were not 7 votes cast for management issues, and seven votes for education issues; voting was done for these two categories combined. Hence, the



number of votes tallied by issue should not be considered a fair representation of the merit of recommendations generated by the groups for each of the respective categories.

The intent of the prioritization effort was to provide the Subgroup participants a "first cut" at issues and recommendations to benefit bear and human safety by reducing conflicts and preventing mortalities. This intent, and the "collective sense" of the Subgroup is expressed in the cumulative tallies by education and management issue follows. These are identified as DRAFT PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS. Read these items carefully, and in their entirety.

**DRAFT PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCING HUNTER-RELATED GRIZZLY BEAR MORTALITY**

**EDUCATION**

1. *Better targeting of the hunting population that is not receiving beneficial information through education efforts.* (N=14)

*Recommendations:*

- a. *Form an education task group representative of key sportsmen groups (e.g. RMEF, FNAWS, WWF, Wyoming Outfitter & Guides Assn., livestock permittees, others) who are knowledgeable about grizzly bears, respected, and are committed to inform, assist, and educate hunters about methods and value to reducing grizzly bear mortalities during the hunting season. Provide information to front and backcountry users, and be available periodically to attend meetings as a group.*
  - b. *Provide each Wyoming resident guide/license applicant bear information attached to the license with such information as "bear-safe" hunting practices, bear behavior, recent applicable information available via research, and camp sanitation and carcass handling recommendations to minimize potential bear-human conflicts.*
2. *Lack of understanding of bear behavior by hunters contributes to hunter-related mortality.* (N=11)

*Recommendations:*

- a. *Increase bear behavior information in outreach efforts and printed educational material*
  - b. *Increase bear behavior information in task group educational efforts*
  - c. *Acquire/contract "state of the art" bear behavior video*
  - d. *Make bear behavior video and related information available on websites*
  - e. *Link bear behavior information to backcountry field efforts by having people familiar with bear responses to humans travel to fall hunting camps*
3. *Improve agency field presence to more effectively provide information on bears, bear behavior near hunting camps, and related bear and human needs in areas where and when it is most needed.* (N=9)

*Recommendations:*



- a. Increase agency field presence during late summer-late fall, especially in critical areas/hotspots for conflicts
- b. Encourage commitment to inter-agency/NGO cooperative effort to find and obligate funding to permanent/temporary bear/large carnivore conflict positions
- c. Explore options for GYCC/NFF to obligate funds for matching private/NGO dollars for field presence during fall hunting seasons.

4. Better manage camp attractants. (N=8)

Recommendations:

- a. Make alternative methods and new ways of safely storing and securing food from bears available to the public; promote public response;
- b. Improve informational materials on camp attractants (including carcass management, e.g. distance to meat poles, electric fencing around meat poles/storage facilities, etc.).
- c. Improve agency field presence

5. Improve media reporting and misrepresentation of grizzly bear incidents and conflicts. (N=8)

Recommendations:

- a. Use radio spots and scripted message/information on bears (behavior, safe camping practices, etc.) on biweekly/weekly radio in summer/fall, respectively.
- b. Hold media workshops and use integrated bear task group to assist
- c. Supply pre-hunting season editorials to local newspapers using articles from task group members that are well known and respected in their communities and among their peers
- d. Use key outdoor magazines to print informational articles and underscore key bear-safety messages and needs for preventing mortalities
- e. Use "writers on the range" to put out bear information and education materials via articles
- f. Target fall "hunting articles" in area newspapers

6. Inconsistent and inadequate food storage order (N=8)

Recommendations:

- a. Forest Service should address collateral fee issue
- b. Forest Service should expand food order and regulation to all occupied bear habitat "adjacent to and contiguous with the Primary Conservation Area" (quotes are consistent with Wyoming Draft Grizzly Bear Management Plan)

7. No systematic learning mechanism in place to carefully track what efforts (e.g. education efforts, etc) are effective in reducing hunter-related grizzly bear mortalities, and what efforts are not. (N=6)

Recommendations:

- a. Improve systematic efforts to track, follow and evaluate what we are doing to



*reduce hunter-related grizzly bear mortalities and prevent human conflicts/injuries.*

- b. *Investigate research, academic, or management lead efforts are best suited to accomplish this task.*

## **MANAGEMENT**

1. *Improve Food Storage Order and Structures in Frontcountry/Backcountry (Meat Poles) (N=12)*
  - a. *Improve availability in presently occupied bear areas, and as bears expand to new areas*
  - b. *Improve Standards*
    1. *Public has difficulty achieving these in remote areas*
    2. *Improve agency commitment and organizational effort to implement effectively for human safety and for reducing/preventing bear mortalities.*
    3. *Improve knowledge and ease of use for food storage facilities and locations (e.g. meat poles, containers, etc.)*
    4. *Improve site specific information for public in dispersed sites and remote backcountry areas*
2. *Improve Agency Presence in Hunting Seasons (N=12)*
  - a. *Backcountry efforts*
  - b. *Trailheads*
  - c. *More "respect" and effective efforts when people with experience are involved.*
3. *Improve Research and Management Data Collection and Analysis (N=3)*
  - a. *Researchers*
  - b. *Managers*
  - c. *Combined efforts (See Tyers example on Gallatin NF)*
4. *Improve Enforcement efforts (N=3)*
  - a. *Improve state authority to implement federal regulations including "failure" to report violations*
  - b. *Improve interagency cooperation so that enforcement efforts are more effective in helping to improve conditions for human safety and avoid preventable bear mortalities*
5. *Black Bear Baiting in Grizzly Occupied Areas*
  - a. *Restrict or Eliminate due to grizzly bear food conditioning and related mortality (N=3)*
6. *Conflict Avoidance Methods*
  - a. *Improve and distribute effective methods and techniques to hunters and broader public. (N=2)*
7. *Mandatory education for hunters. (N=2)*
8. *If Education efforts not effective after trial voluntary effort, required management actions are implemented. (N=2)*

## Group 1: Issues and Draft Recommendations

Kevin Frey, Grizzly Bear Conflict Specialist, Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks kept notes for the group.

Goal: Minimize hunter-caused bear mortality

Premise: Safety for people~safety for bears...

### EDUCATION

2. What?
3. Whose Job is it?
4. How?
5. Options:
  - a. Volunteer-basis
  - b. Mandatory ?
  - c. Through Licensing ?

### Current Efforts

#### **1. Agency Field Presence**

Current: Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and Forest Service (Gallatin NF) personnel expend time and effort in field presence during hunting season...continue.

#### Recommendations:

- a. Needs improvement ( examples are @trailheads and with backcountry efforts on Gallatin, Shoshone, and Bridger-Teton NF)
- b. Focus needs to be placed on "known hotspots" for bears, people and conflicts

#### **2. Signing**

Current: Signing is done @ trailheads

#### Recommendations:

- a. Signing also in need of improvements. More consistent and fewer messages would be helpful in reducing confusion over "what to do".
- b. Standards should be established for signs. These were established in 1985 but their effectiveness has waned.
- c. Establish new standards for grizzly bear signing in GYE. Make them so that they are consistent, helpful, and eliminate confusion.
- d. Implement by Summer 2002

#### **3. Media**

Current: Media Releases are done

#### Recommendations:

- a. Need for more positive articles, statewide (Wyo., MT., Idaho?)
- b. Better Coordination of information with and to media



- c. Increase exposure to critical issues via improved media delivery of information:
  1. Public TV, Cable, Info-mercial
  2. Internet/Web Pages
  3. Radio
  4. Video (Sportsmen's Groups)
  5. National Publications

#### **4. Education Programs**

##### Current:

- a. Wyoming non-resident hunters receive bear information w/ licenses...continue.
- b. Wyoming requires non-resident hunters be guided by resident...continue.
- c. Bridger-Teton NF has trailhead visits and camphosts...continue.

##### Recommendations:

- a. Make youth education (hunter ed.) mandatory
- b. Work with Outfitter and Guide Associations on establishing an outfitter certification program, taught by outfitters (Wyo., MT. )
- c. Re-direct information being taught in programs to provide more emphasis on
  1. Bear activity and behavior
  2. Camp ethics and practices during hunting and after
  3. Field hunting practices in bear occupied areas
- d. Direct State and Forest Service Programs to include more focus to specific user groups rather than being "just" widespread

#### **6. Food Storage Ordinance**

##### Current:

- a. Order in place

##### Recommendations:

- a. Needs re-vamping to be more current with existing conditions and changes in bear distribution.

### **MANAGEMENT (Voted Upon)**

#### **People and Bears**

##### **A. People Management**

##### Recommendations:

1. Improve Food Storage Order and Structures in Frontcountry/Backcountry (N=12)
  - a. Improve availability in presently occupied bear areas, and as bears expand to new areas
  - b. Improve Standards
    1. Public has difficulty achieving these in remote areas



2. Improve agency commitment and organizational effort to implement effectively for human safety and for reducing/preventing bear mortalities.
3. Improve knowledge and ease of use for food storage facilities and locations (e.g. meat poles, containers, etc.)
4. Improve site specific information for public in dispersed sites and remote backcountry areas

2. Improve Research and Management Data Collection and Analysis (N=3)

Recommendations:

- a. Researchers
- b. Managers
- c. Combined efforts (See Tyers example on Gallatin NF)

3. Improve Agency Presence in Hunting Seasons (N=12)

Recommendations:

- a. Backcountry efforts
- b. Trailheads
- c. More "respect" and effective efforts when people with experience are involved.

4. Improve Enforcement efforts (N=3)

Recommendations:

- a. Improve state authority to implement federal regulations including "failure" to report violations
- b. Improve interagency cooperation so that enforcement efforts are more effective in helping to improve conditions for human safety and avoid preventable bear mortalities

5. Make Hunter Education Mandatory in Grizzly Bear Occupied Areas

6. Improve efforts to manage roads and access

7. Improve hunting practices to make bear conservation more compatible with hunting at times of year when people are carrying fire arms in bear country.

8. Mandatory education for hunters. (N=2)

## 2. Bear Management

### 1. Aversive Conditioning

- a. What works in the field ?
- b. Need for new methods
- c. Increase use of "effective" electric fencing at camps; establish training and standards for deployment. Use outfitters and their experience/possible certification training through O&Gs Assn.



2. Conflict Avoidance Methods (N=2)

Recommendations:

- a. Improve and distribute effective methods and techniques to hunters and broader public.

3. Black Bear Baiting in Grizzly Occupied Areas (N=3)

Recommendations:

- a. Restrict or Eliminate due to grizzly bear food conditioning and related mortality

4. Black Bear-Grizzly Bear Hunter Identification

Recommendation:

- a. Consider possible mandatory education

5. Other Recommendations:

- a. Early Warning System with specific areas of concern and associated management actions (N=1)
- b. Required Carrying of Pepper Spray (N=1)
- c. Certification of Hunters/Outfitters/Guides
- d. If Education efforts not effective after trial voluntary effort, required management actions are implemented. (N=2)

**Group 2: Issues and Draft Recommendations**

Timothy Kaminski, Bridger-Teton NF wildlife biologist, kept notes for the group.

**EDUCATION (Voted Upon)**

Group 2 focused nearly all of it's time on discussing and attempting to find solutions to education issues. These included:

- 1. People are not reporting bears that are dying.

Recommendations:

- a. Make part of the education curricula and explain to participants why it is important; give emphasis also to outfitters and guides;
- b. Improve awareness through information line (e.g. 1-800-dead bear)
- c. Include the importance of this information in media reporting



2. Better targeting of the hunting population that is not receiving beneficial information through education efforts. (N=14)

Recommendations:

- a. Form an education task group representative of key sportsmens groups (e.g. RMEF, FNAWS, WWF, Wyo.Outfitter&Guides Assn., livestock permittees, others) who are knowledgeable about grizzly bears, respected, and are committed to inform, assist, and educate hunters about methods and value to reducing grizzly bear mortalities during the hunting season. Provide information to front and backcountry users, and be available periodically to attend meetings as a group.
- b. Provide each Wyoming resident guide/license applicant bear information attached to the license with such information as "bear-safe" hunting practices, bear behavior, recent applicable information available via research, and camp sanitation and carcass handling recommendations to minimize potential bear-human conflicts.

3. Better manage camp attractants. (N=8)

Recommendations:

- a. Make alternative methods and new ways of safely storing and securing food from bears available to the public; promote public response;
- b. Improve informational materials on camp attractants (including carcass management, e.g. distance to meat poles, electric fencing around meat poles/storage facilities, etc.).
- c. Improve agency field presence

4. Lack of understanding of bear behavior by hunters contributes to hunter-related mortality. (N=11)

Recommendations:

- a. Increase bear behavior information in outreach efforts and printed educational material
- b. Increase bear behavior information in task group educational efforts
- c. Acquire/contract "state of the art" bear behavior video
- d. Make bear behavior video and related information available on websites
- e. Link bear behavior information to backcountry field efforts by having people familiar with bear responses to humans travel to fall hunting camps

5. Improve media reporting and misrepresentation of grizzly bear incidents and conflicts. (N=8)

Recommendations:

- a. Use radio spots and scripted message/information on bears (behavior, safe camping practices, etc.) on biweekly/weekly radio in summer/fall, respectively.
- b. Hold media workshops and use integrated bear task group to assist
- c. Supply pre-hunting season editorials to local newspapers using articles from task group members that are well known and respected in their communities and among their peers
- d. Use key outdoor magazines to print informational articles and underscore key bear-safety messages and needs for preventing mortalities



- e. Use "writers on the range" to put out bear information and education materials via articles
  - f. Target fall "hunting articles" in area newspapers
6. Improve agency field presence to more effectively provide information on bears, bear behavior near hunting camps, and related bear and human needs in areas where and when it is most needed. (N=9)

Recommendations:

- a. Increase agency field presence during late summer-late fall, especially in critical areas/hotspots for conflicts
- b. Encourage commitment to inter-agency/NGO cooperative effort to find and obligate funding to permanent/temporary bear/large carnivore conflict positions
- c. Explore options for GYCC/NFF to obligate funds for matching private/NGO dollars for field presence during fall hunting seasons.

7. Bear Identification (Grizzly vs Black bear) (N=3)

Recommendations:

- a. Link Montana website on bear identification to other user groups and agencies
- b. All black bear hunters provided information and education materials as attachment to their permits
- c. Use radio announcements prior to hunting seasons to underscore importance of using care to correctly identify and distinguish black and grizzly bear characteristics afield.

8. Lack of Non-Lethal Alternatives (N=3)

Recommendations:

- a. Pursue rigorous research, testing and evaluation of practical tools for non-lethal bear-human conflict avoidance techniques
- b. Improve internal and external support for development of non-lethal methods

9. Inadequacy of penalties and prosecution for violations and bear deaths

Recommendations:

- a. Proactive efforts to educate and inform judges and magistrates on key bear issues in public interest (e.g. human safety, etc.)
- b. Use Game Warden Associations in Wyoming and Montana to hold or sponsor informational workshops or sessions.



10. No systematic learning mechanism in place to carefully track what efforts (e.g. education efforts, etc) are effective in reducing hunter-related grizzly bear mortalities, and what efforts are not. (N=6)

Recommendations:

- a. Improve systematic efforts to track, follow and evaluate what we are doing to reduce hunter-related grizzly bear mortalities and prevent human conflicts/injuries.
- b. Investigate research, academic, or management lead efforts are best suited to accomplish this task.

11. Inconsistent and inadequate food storage order (N=8)

Recommendations:

- a. Forest Service should address collateral fee issue
- b. Forest Service should expand food order and regulation to all occupied bear habitat "adjacent to and contiguous with the Primary Conservation Area" (quotes are consistent with Wyoming Draft Grizzly Bear Management Plan)

12. Fragmented and Inconsistent information on bears (e.g. pamphlets, signs, internet, bulletin boards, pepper spray marketing/advertising, media) (N=2)

Recommendations:

- a. Form a working group to collate and upgrade information, including signs and materials, etc.
- b. Improve distribution mechanisms throughout the GYA

13. Lack of understanding of the role and use of pepper spray.

Recommendations:

- a. Link pepper spray use to information task force; clearly define use and application benefits:
  1. Promote inert spray
  2. Involve people who have used successfully to avoid injury or bear mortality
  3. Encourage agencies to set example in backcountry areas by carrying
  4. Make better use and more effectively display published findings and materials

14. Improper field hunting practices being used by hunters in grizzly bear country. (N=3)

Recommendations:

- a. Improve information dissemination to resident and non-resident hunters through workshops, education venues, through hunter-representative working group, and via backcountry visits to hunting camps and one-to-one discussions during fall hunting season.