

April 28, 2016

Wyoming Game and Fish Department:

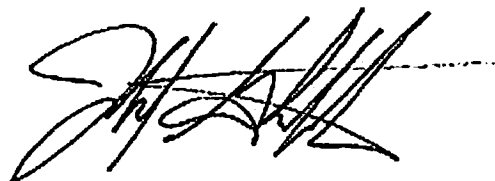
The Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for your role in helping the Grizzly bear population recover. We are thrilled that they have returned in meaningful numbers to the state and region.

We have a few comments we hope you will consider as you develop a management plan moving forward:

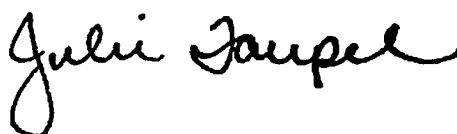
- Local visitor surveys show that wildlife, including bears, is one of the top draws to our visitors. Tourism is the number one driver of our local economy, and number two for the state. State sales tax from our county relies on tourism.
- Trophy hunting of bears is controversial to some potential tourists both nationally and internationally. In the Jackson Hole region (and potentially other tourism focused communities) trophy hunting could potentially impact our tourism economy that is highly dependent on wildlife watching opportunities.
- We ask that as your agency experts develop hunt areas, quotas and seasons that they explicitly account for the economic value that bears represent for tourism and businesses in Wyoming. This could mean management options that include significantly reduced or no trophy hunting in and around Jackson Hole (and other tourism communities that voice the same concern). Particularly, hunting should be avoided in areas adjacent to our National Parks and within the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway. As outlined in the state's draft plan, trophy hunting pressure could be better directed toward other areas where high conflict is occurring. We understand that these management practices may be necessary in other areas of the state where tourism is not a primary driver of local economies.
- We also ask that you consider delaying the onset of trophy hunting. This would allow for a transition from federal to state management that removes the emotion surrounding hunting.

Thanks again for your exceptional work helping recover our bear populations. Grizzly bears are a conservation success story that is no more apparent than right here in Jackson Hole, where we now have grizzly bears in places that they haven't been seen in over 80 years. We thank all of the federal and state wildlife managers, non-governmental organizations and businesses, which have made this success possible.

Thank You,



Jeff Golightly
President / CEO



Julie Faupel
Chair