

**From:** [Servheen, Chris](#)  
**To:** [Matt Hogan](#)  
**Subject:** Re:  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2016 5:52:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [SW Grizzly Bear EIS.FINAL.Full document.pdf](#)  
[Responses to issues raised by environmental groups effects of pop decline.pdf](#)

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There is this language (below) in the SW Montana Plan. This is good language but they never address the issue of discretionary hunting mortality in this area. This is the issue we asked them to address, even informally as a verbal assurance to us that they will not open seasons in this area. We have gotten many comments and concerns raised about hunting in this area between the NCDE and Yellowstone. Note in our response to concerns raised by environmental groups, the highlighted text at the bottom of p. 3 and the top of p. 4 (attached).

*As documented from sightings, captures, and mortalities in the past decade, grizzly bears from the GYA and the NCDE are expanding their distribution and there is considerable potential for these populations to connect. It is a long-term goal of FWP to allow the grizzly bear populations in southwest and western Montana to reconnect through the maintenance of non-conflict grizzly bears in areas between the ecosystems. FWP anticipates that successful implementation of this plan, along with adequate local involvement, can allow this to occur. FWP will continue to address land-use patterns that promote or hinder bear movement.*

*Management of non-conflict grizzly bears in areas between the NCDE management area and the DMA of the GYA (Figure 7) will be compatible with maintaining some grizzly occupancy. Maintaining presence of non-conflict grizzly bears in areas between the NCDE management area and the demographic monitoring area of the GYA, such as the Tobacco Root and Highland Mountains, would likely facilitate periodic grizzly movements between the NCDE and GYA.*

*Conflict management and removal of problem grizzly bears will remain a priority within these areas like the rest of Montana. Human safety will always be prioritized over facilitation of grizzly movement for genetic connection between the ecosystems.*

On Wed, Jan 13, 2016 at 4:00 PM, Matt Hogan <[Matt\\_Hogan@fws.gov](mailto:Matt_Hogan@fws.gov)> wrote:

I recall seeing language (I thought) from the MT State GB plan that talked about habitat connectivity that we quoted in the Conservation Strategy. However, it was not in the last version we sent to the states and I can't find it. Can you send me what that is? Thanks.

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"Try to learn something about everything and everything about something." - Thomas Huxley.