



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY COORDINATOR  
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA  
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March 1, 2022

To: Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

From: Hilary Cooley, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator, US Fish & Wildlife Service

Subject: Technical Assistance Letter for Implementation of Grizzly Bear 4(d) rule

State agencies are authorized to take federally-listed grizzly bears constituting a demonstrable but non-immediate threat to human safety or committing significant depredations and for scientific or research activities under conditions as described in the Endangered Species Act, Section (i) C and D of the grizzly bear 4(d) rule, 50 CFR 17.40(b). This letter describes authorized activities and terms and conditions for implementing this rule March 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

1. Authorized Activities:

- a. Live-trap and transport conflict bears to relocation sites. Relocation sites will be coordinated with the land management agency and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Recovery Coordinator.
- b. Capture using bear traps or foot snares, immobilize, ear tag, radio collar, mark, take tissue, hair, blood, and tooth samples, and release grizzly bears. Samples should be sent to facilities identified by the USFWS.
- c. Free dart, aerial dart, and immobilize grizzly bears for the purpose of translocating or marking the animal.
- d. Euthanize conflict bears. No grizzly bears can be euthanized without specific prior authorization from the Recovery Coordinator.
- e. Preemptively move bears that are in an area where they may come into conflict with human activities. Bears may be moved after authorization by the Recovery Coordinator.

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- f. Assist in the occasional transport of conflict grizzly bears to zoos throughout the United States and Canada as needed.
- g. Harm and harass grizzly bears as part of aversive conditioning; when appropriate.

2. Conditions:

- a. All activities conducted under this letter must be done in compliance with the terms and conditions of the letter and with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines.
- b. Human safety must be the highest priority when attempting to free dart and immobilize grizzly bears for the purpose of translocating or marking the animal.
- c. Only those personnel and their assistants who are trained and experienced in immobilizing, marking, and handling bears are authorized to participate in these activities.
- d. The only persons to be in the vicinity of your activities are those individuals specifically authorized under this letter, or authorized employees or agents of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the USFWS, or the land management agency. Where capture operations occur on private lands or on allotments on public lands, the landowner or livestock owner can be present, but should not be involved in the actual capture and immobilization of the bear.
- e. Every possible precaution must be taken to avoid confrontations between bears and the public, including but not limited to closure or signing of the study sites. Sites, including capture locations, are not to be disclosed to the public to assure human safety and to prevent dangers to bears.
- f. You will obtain, have in your possession, and conduct your activities in compliance with all appropriate Federal, Tribal, and State required permits and licenses for take of listed species.
- g. Any threatened or endangered species that is accidentally killed while conducting activities under this authorization must be reported within 24 hours to both USFWS Law Enforcement and to the Recovery Coordinator. Species and/or the parts of species that are taken remain the property of the Service. If the disposal of species is not identified in the above conditions, contact the Recovery Coordinator for the final determination on disposition of any threatened or endangered species taken during authorized activities.
- h. A report of all activities conducted under the authority of this letter must be submitted to the Recovery Coordinator by February 15, 2023 using a completed 4(d) Take Report Form (attached). Upon receipt of report, authorization will be renewed and an updated letter will be issued.

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3. Contacts:

- a. USFWS Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator:  
**Hilary Cooley**, 406-273-8002  
**Wayne Kasworm**, 406-529-5167 (backup)
- b. USFWS Office of Law Enforcement:  
**Ron Armstrong**, Resident Agent in Charge, 406-247-7355(o), 406-598-2675(c), 2900 4<sup>th</sup> Ave North, Suite 301, Billings, MT 59101  
**Mona Iannelli**, Special Agent, 406-329-3000(o), 406-591-1512(c), 200 East Broadway, RM 236, Missoula, MT 59802  
**Rudi Cagle**, Special Agent, 406-761-2286(o), 406-409-0797(c), 920 Bootlegger Trail, Great Falls, MT 59404

4. Attachments:

- a. Section 4(d) Rule
- b. Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines
- c. Section 4(d) Take Report Form

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