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Subject: upcoming press issue
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Attachments: [IGBC Policy Statement Regarding the Management of Delisted Grizzly Beardocx](#)

This is being sent to a core group of the IGBC as a heads up.

Several of us including Jim Unsworth, Gregg Losinski, and I (and probably others) have been contacted by Associated Press reporter Matt Brown concerning the upcoming IGBC meeting and the issue of grizzly hunting that will be discussed. The reporter is fixated on the hunting issue. I tried to put this in perspective by stating:

- 1) that this was a discussion of the legitimate use of hunting as a management tool when grizzly populations are delisted and there was no proposal to hunt now;**
- 2) that hunting would never threaten grizzly populations;**
- 3) that the objective of hunting would not be to reduce grizzly bear numbers once delisting takes place and that numbers of bears taken by hunting would always be very low and conservative (he asked if the wolf hunting season was an example of how a possible grizzly season would be managed);**
- 4) that hunting may be targeted to areas where there are conflicts such as the periphery of the range where expanding numbers put bears in places where they have no long-term survival potential, but there was no such discussion to date and this would be something the states would manage carefully in the future;**
- 5) that hunting if and when it did happen would be annually managed by the states based on the best available science from detailed monitoring information on the levels of mortalities from all causes, annual recruitment to the population, and sustainable mortality levels by cohort;**
- 6) that hunting would never eliminate human-bear conflicts but it might reduce them somewhat in certain peripheral areas; and**
- 7) that there was no proposal to hunt bears being discussed or**

voted on at the meeting.

I think we all did our best, however this is a volatile issue. We know he will get other opinions on this issue and he knows who to ask to get opinions that will not be favorable to the agencies. He called me back a little while ago and said he will be submitting this hunting issue story right away before the IGBC meeting even takes place.

So, heads up.

Chris

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"If there are no dogs in heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went." - Will Rogers