

To: Director Scott Talbott
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
5400 Bishop Blvd, Cheyenne, WY 82006
Attn: Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioners
CC: Dave Vela, Grand Teton National Park Superintendent &
Michael Bean, U.S. Department of Interior

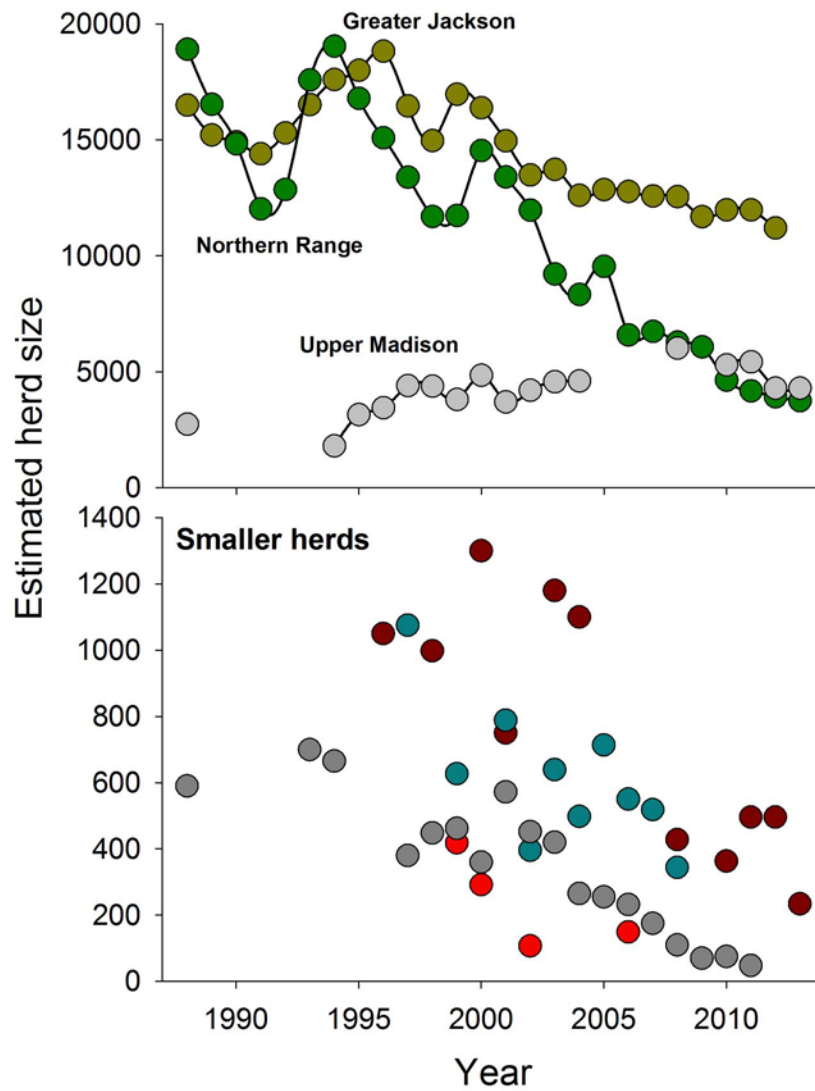
Dated this 10th day of April, 2015

The attached information pertaining to the potential effects of hunting and hunter-related gut piles is relevant to current deliberations regarding the effects of elk hunting on grizzly bears in the Jackson Hole area. As described in the attached declaration, there is ample evidence showing that meat eating by grizzly bears is particularly hazardous for the involved bears, primarily because of conflicts with hunters; meat eating by bears has increased substantially since the early 2000s. As a consequence, conflicts with hunters—both in Jackson Hole and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem—have increased dramatically at the same time that the grizzly bear population has been static or possibly even declining. Moreover, as shown in the figure attached to this letter (page 2), all of this has been happening at the same time that elk herds ecosystem-wide have experienced substantial, if not catastrophic, declines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David J. Mattson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

David J. Mattson, PhD
USGS Research Wildlife Biologist (retired)
USGS Colorado Plateau Research Station Leader (retired)
Lecturer and Visiting Senior Scientist, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies



Referenced figure. Elk populations' trends for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, 1981-2013. Different-colored dots denote size estimates for different populations, with the ecosystem's largest populations featured in the upper graph. All data are publicly available from Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho state wildlife management agencies.