

Within the Demographic Monitoring Area (DMA), the Study Team will estimate annual population size and establish mortality limits for independent males, females, and dependent young based on that year's population estimate. Within the DMA, mortality limits will be based on rates that allow for long-term population stability, not decline. If they wish to do so, Agencies will determine the number of available hunting mortalities outside the National Parks and Parkway for the following year based on achievement of the population criteria the current year. Total allowable mortalities for each jurisdiction will be allocated to the States and Tribes annually based on their proportion of geographic area in the DMA. If ecosystem-wide mortality limits within the DMA are not exceeded, the difference between the mortality limit and the current year's estimated mortality count will become the maximum available hunting limit for independent males and females the following year. For example, if the mortality limit for independent males were 25 for a given year and only 20 mortalities occurred, there would be five independent males available for hunting the following year. The proportion of this available number outside of National Park lands (79.5 percent) would be allocated among jurisdictions based on their geographic area within the DMA. In the above example, the five available bears would translate into four available bears outside of National Park Service lands to be allocated among Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and the Wind River Indian Reservation. Based on the geographic area of each of these jurisdictions, this would mean 2.2 bears for Wyoming, 1.4 bears for Montana, 0.3 bears for Idaho, and 0.2 bears for the Wind River Indian Reservation.

Comment [dt1]: I only removed this because of our discussion about the future and if the population does increase, we can manage to bring it back to previous level.

Comment [dt2]: I have draft pop objectives and stability definitions.

If ecosystem-wide mortality limits within the DMA are exceeded, there will be no grizzly bear hunting within the DMA in any management jurisdiction the following year. If hunting limits for any sex/age class in a given jurisdiction inside the DMA are exceeded, those excess mortalities due to hunting will apply against the ecosystem-wide sustainable mortality limit for that sex/age class the following year. In areas of the Yellowstone DPS outside the DMA boundaries, respective States and Tribes may establish hunting seasons independently of the mortality limits and other population criteria. Hunting inside and outside the DMA boundaries will not threaten the GYA grizzly bear population because the population inside the DMA will be managed for long-term population stability. Managing agencies will collaboratively evaluate how discretionary mortality is allocated based on the population status on an annual basis in order to maintain objectives and provide for long-term viability of the recovered grizzly bear population in the GYA. Hunting inside and outside the DMA boundaries will not threaten the GYA grizzly bear population because ecosystem-wide mortality monitoring and interagency coordination will ensure as the population inside the DMA will be managed for long-term population viability. While we recognize that population size and trend may fluctuate annually, ecosystem-wide mortality monitoring and interagency coordination ensure the GYA grizzly bear population will be managed so that long-term population declines do not occur. Furthermore, to increase the likelihood of genetic interchange between the GYA grizzly bear population and the NCDE grizzly bear population, the State of Montana will not institute grizzly bear hunting seasons in the Highland or Tobacco Root Mountains in the near-term. To ensure mortality rates

Comment [dt3]: I think this is too much information for the rule. We want to have the ability for adaptive management of the population into the future without having to revisit through a huge process.

Comment [RS4]: Placeholder...need to be able to explain how fractions of bears would work

Comment [dt5]: I think the sentence "Hunting inside and outside..." Covers this portion, suggest removing sentence due to redundancy.

Comment [RS6]: working w/ MFWP to get amicable language .

Comment [dt7]: I think you could state something along the lines of the language that is in the Recovery Plan without stating that hunting won't occur? Just my two cents.

remain consistent with population objectives, ~~a~~ the Study Team will conduct a demographic review of ~~vital rates of the population~~ 5 years after any final delisting rule is published and at least every 10 years thereafter to make appropriate adjustments ~~to them~~. The ~~Study Team selected a~~ 10 year time period interval was selected based on life history characteristics of bears and methodologies in order ~~because that is approximately how long it takes~~ to obtain estimates with acceptable levels of uncertainty and statistical rigor (Harris et al. 2011, p. 29).

Comment [RS8]: Thompson is working on some draft language for these and a definition of “stability.”