

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. If they wish to do so, agencies will determine the number of available hunting mortalities outside the National Parks and Parkway based on achievement of the population criteria. 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. . |

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.

Comment [RS3]: Placeholder...need to be able to explain how fractions of bears would work

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. 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. 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. . 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 remain consistent with population objectives, the Study Team will conduct a demographic review of the population 5 years after any final delisting rule is published and at least every 10 years thereafter to make appropriate adjustments. Reassessment will occur should the need arise upon delisting. The time period interval was selected based on life history characteristics of bears and methodologies in order to obtain estimates with acceptable levels of uncertainty and statistical rigor (Harris et al. 2011, p. 29).

Comment [dt4]: I think the sentence "Hunting inside and outside..." Covers this portion, suggest removing sentence due to redundancy.

Comment [RS5]: working w/ MFWP to get amicable language .

Comment [dt6]: 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.

Comment [RS7]: Thompson is working on some draft language for these and a definition of "stability."