

**From:** [Noreen Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Matt Hogan](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MT and WY Governors  
**Date:** Monday, September 28, 2015 9:18:21 AM

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Thanks for copying me Matt

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**From:** Matt Hogan [mailto:[Matt\\_Hogan@fws.gov](mailto:Matt_Hogan@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 8:28 AM  
**To:** D\_M\_Ashe  
**Cc:** Noreen Walsh  
**Subject:** MT and WY Governors

Dan,

I see you are having lunch with Gov. Mead on Tuesday. If possible, it would be good to mention the adequate regulatory mechanism piece. We are still waiting to see what the states propose and while we are hopeful it will include season closures if female mortality limits are reached, we have yet to see their proposal.

Likewise, if you have the chance to visit with Gov. Bullock, MT continues to send somewhat mixed messages about connectivity between GYE and NCDE. They say they don't expect to have a season in the connectivity zone but are being somewhat prickly on the issue. My sense is its Ken McDonald working behind the scenes on Jeff. I have impressed upon them the importance of this issue to some in the environmental community and that this might be the difference to having some groups support or oppose our efforts. See excerpt from an email (in italics) from Jeff Hagener last week:

*What I have expressed to Matt is that (during the 5 year monitoring post-delisting) it is unlikely that MT would have general hunting for grizzly bears in that area anyway. Historically we did not allow hunting in areas outside of where we had established grizzly bear populations. In the spirit of compromise, MT FWP is willing to commit (during the 5 year monitoring post-delisting ) to managing grizzly bear hunting opportunities through a limited zone between the GYE and the NCDE to be compatible with grizzly bear occupancy (and in Matt's term of "minimizing discretionary mortality"). MT will retain the authority/ability to address depredation and human conflicts with grizzly bears in that area and perhaps utilize directed sport hunting to remove problem bear(s). This would be in a similar matter as was done in MT during the late 80's before sport hunting of grizzly bears was prohibited by court action. I would also like to point to our track record on wolf management since delisting – we have not significantly impacted the population though our regulated hunting and other associated management actions. There is no basis for an opinion that grizzly bear management will be any different. MT will retain complete authority to hunt grizzly bears within the designated DMA*

*(in accordance with the MOU between the 3 states regarding allowable mortality)and in those areas outside the DMA that also fall outside the limited discretionary mortality area.*

One point MT has made is that if they designate a “no hunting” zone in a portion of the state in the GYE, the legislature would like come back and designate the area a “no grizzly bear zone” out of spite. Apparently the legislature did something similar with wolves when the state tried to enact a buffer near Yellowstone for wolves.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Matt