

**From:** [Maggie Nutter](#)  
**To:** ["Bertellotti, Gary"](#); ["Kraig Glazier"](#); ["Edwards, George"](#); ["Brian Lakes"](#); ["Bush, Jodi"](#)  
**Cc:** ["Rich Stuker"](#); ["Hagener, Jeff"](#); [Wayne Kasworm](#); [Matt Hogan](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Valier MT meeting on Grizzly bears  
**Date:** Thursday, May 19, 2016 10:37:43 AM  
**Attachments:** [terry leonard bear april 26 2016.jpg](#)

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Gary Bertellotti and others,  
I certainly hope to be at the meeting.

This has been an ongoing issue for a few years now and people do not feel there is adequate response or management by FWP. People are very discouraged and angry. They do not feel human life is being valued and protected. A few brochures left at the library is not adequate education. Lack of signage is a huge concern for those around Lake Frances, rafting on the Marias River, or even using the Shelby golf course. These issues were all raised at the meetings FWP at Shelby, Conrad and Valier in March of 2013 hosted by Marias River Livestock and attended by FWP and the community. These communities have not seen increased education by FWP, signage in locations mentioned or increased responses to call.

People in the Valier area are concerned about the lack of service. They report there is not response to their calls. That depending on the person the response time can be long to never. Multiple phone numbers were given in the Great Falls Tribune article as who to call, meaning a person could have to call three to four number and still may not get response. They would leave a voice message but still not know when or if a real person will pick up and check the messages or if they will respond or what to do if they have questions.

There has been mention that when FWP is called they sometime state that animal death cannot be determined therefore person is not eligible for payment from MT Livestock Loss Board. It is stated that FWP does not skin carcass or otherwise investigate cause of death.

There has been statements that FWP staff does not want to capture the bears as then they will have to tag them and the bears would then have a record or history against them. People feel strongly that bears who come in human

settlements should be marked so those who form habit of it can be relocated or removed from population. It would be better for strong conditioning to happen up front so bears avoid humans as is mentioned in chapter 4 of the Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Western Montana.

Here are some ideas that could be implemented to improve communication, response time and records of responses.

1. We ask that there be a “dispatch person” 24 hours a day taking calls for the bear specialist/responders. They would record time, date and details of each call and would then get a hold of FWP responder within 30 minutes to call the person back and/or respond to the location. We would ask that each call back and or locations response would be recorded with details of who the responder was, who they contacted and what action was taken and in what time frame.
2. There would be 24 hour/ 7 day a week dispatch and responders put in place. Many businesses/services have people on call and to cover such time frame when it comes to human safety.
3. Dispatch would ask if livestock is involved either harassed or killed. Any time the caller says to the Dispatch that livestock is involved, Dispatch would be required to contact Wildlife Services and given all the information on time, location, person to contact and details of animal death, injury or harassment of livestock. Wildlife Service is by state law is the sole required agency to determine if depredation is by grizzly or wolf for Livestock Loss Board reimbursement.
4. In the Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Western Montana page 30 it states FWP’s objective is to maximize human safety and minimize losses to property while maintaining viable populations of grizzly bears. Page 30-31 of the plan speaks to deterrents and adverse conditioning, management control and livestock conflicts. We would like to see immediate and proactive action on bears close to human settlements. The bear comfortably resting by children’s play equipment (attached

photo) or walking casually down any city street should have some action taken against it. Actions such as trapping and marking bears is important to monitor those that may becoming use to humans. Adverse conditioning should be used until they avoid humans or until it is determined they need removed. PG 34 comment "More importantly, habituated and /or food conditioned bears are most often involved in injury or death to humans."

Sincerely  
Maggie Nutter

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**From:** Bertellotti, Gary [mailto:GBertellotti@mt.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2016 8:25 AM  
**To:** Kraig Glazier (kraig.l.glazier@aphis.usda.gov); Edwards, George; Brian Lakes (brian\_lakes@fws.gov); Bush, Jodi  
**Cc:** Maggie Nutter; Rich Stuker; Hagener, Jeff  
**Subject:** Valier MT meeting on Grizzly bears

Kraig, George, Brian, Jodi and Maggie

To inform you that there will be a meeting at the Valier Community Center at 7:00 Tuesday May 24 (next Tuesday).

The meeting will be to provide the community an opportunity to express their concerns about Grizzly bears and presence in or near the town and to provide education from FWP on Bear Aware and have a discussion on what the community, farm and livestock producers can do with FWP, WS, and Loss board related to Grizzly Bears. (preventative tools to reduce and avoid conflict). Also will review the delisting process.

George I know you are coming and will have time on the agenda and Kraig and others if you have a desire you to can be center stage with the Mayor and FWP. Commissioner Stuker may be there and if so you're welcome to be on stage also.

The top issues that I have been notified of are:

1. Bears that have come into town and human safety
2. FWP response time and level to calls of bears in or near town
3. Bears on the prairie and what should be done including expansion of numbers and areas where bears are occurring

4. Conflict with livestock – protection tools and loss payments
5. Conflict potential with recreation on the Reservoir / camp ground
6. Bear numbers being seen in the area and increase in number of sightings and when
7. What is FWP doing next to protect Valier and surrounding area residents
8. Others related to these

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Wildlife & Parks*

