

Summary of Editorial Changes to the 2018 NCDE Conservation Strategy

Note: This document will be periodically updated as the NCDE Conservation Strategy is edited and updated, from first draft to final posting.

This document is current as of October 15, 2018

Edits made July 3, 2018:

- Changed throughout: the acronym for total reported and unknown mortality from 'TRUM' to 'TRU mortality'
- P. 7, Correction: USDA APHIS, Wildlife Services - signatory line should be "Western Regional Director" rather than "State Director."
- P. 20, Correction: last paragraph: "54" wilderness areas should read "5" wilderness areas.
- P. 159, Style change (lit cited): spacing is off between citations in middle of page.
- Added a suggested citation for this document:
 - NCDE Subcommittee. 2018. Conservation strategy for the grizzly bear in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. 326 pp.

Clarifying Points

- Added throughout:
 - Components of the Conservation Strategy, including the underlying Tribal, Federal, and State plans and regulations, will be included in any Proposed Rule that the USFWS may publish relative to delisting the NCDE grizzly bear population, which would be available for public review and comment. In addition, MFWP is developing an Administrative Rule for its NCDE grizzly bear population management objectives that are described in the Conservation Strategy. There will be public review and comment opportunities included in this rulemaking process.
- Added the following sentence to the end of the first paragraph under Chapter 3 heading on page 10 (Preface) of the Strategy:
 - The use of the term 'objectives' in this Conservation Strategy does not change the way the terms "standard" or "guideline" are used or applied relative to each agency's land use management plan that provides the required regulatory direction when agency actions are implemented.

Edits made August 31, 2018:

- P. 72: Clarified sentence to read, "**Designated** roads in timber sale areas will be closed after harvest is complete."

- P. 83, Correction: Removed Hog Heaven and Ferry Basin from list of identified crossing areas where there is hiding cover along major highways.
- P. 100, Correction: Helicopter logging is available at Burgess.
- P. 9, 51, 52, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 222, 237, 239, 240, 241: Rewrote sentences explaining Chapter 2 Demographic Monitoring for clarification and consistency.
 - Overall Objective description change to say, “Manage mortalities from all sources to support an estimated probability of at least 90% that the grizzly bear population within the DMA remains above 800 bears.”

Previous version of objective explanation:

- Independent female survival threshold: Using a six-year running average (see Glossary), maintain estimated annual survival of independent females within the DMA to: (a) a rate of ≥ 0.90 ; and (b) a rate at or above the minimum level consistent with a projected $\geq 90\%$
- Independent female mortality threshold: Using a six-year running average, limit annual estimated number of total reported and unreported mortalities (TRU mortality, see Glossary) of independent females within the DMA to: (a) a number that is $\leq 10\%$ of the number of independent females estimated within the DMA based on population modeling; and (b) a number that is at or below the maximum level consistent with a projected $\geq 90\%$ probability that the population within the DMA will remain above 800 bears based on population modeling.
- Independent male mortality threshold: Using a six-year running average, limit annual estimated number of TRU mortality of independent males within the DMA to a number that is $\leq 15\%$ of the number of independent males estimated within the DMA based on population modeling.

Updated version:

- Independent female survival threshold: Using a six-year running average (see Glossary), maintain estimated annual survival of independent females within the Demographic Monitoring Area of at least 90% and a rate at or above the minimum level consistent with a projected probability of at least 90% that the population within the DMA will remain above 800 grizzly bears based on population modeling.
- Independent female mortality threshold: Using a six-year running average, limit annual estimated number of total reported and unreported mortalities (TRU mortality, see Glossary) of independent females within the DMA to a number that is no more than 10% of the number of independent females estimated within the DMA based on population modeling and a number that is at or below the maximum consistent with a projected probability of at least 90% that the population within the DMA will remain above 800 bears based on population modeling.
- Independent male mortality threshold: Using a six-year running average, limit annual estimated number of TRU mortality of independent males within the DMA to a number that is no more than 15% of the number of independent males estimated within the DMA based on population modeling.

Edits made October 15, 2018:

P. 237-238: Correction: Appendix 3 previously referred to Appendix 1 for the methods of estimating vital rates. It should have referred to Appendix 2 and has been corrected throughout Appendix 3.