

# Summary of Editorial Changes to the NCDE Conservation Strategy

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

Updated through: May 16, 2019

## 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  $\geq 0.90$ ; 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.

## Edits made May 16, 2019:

P. 323: Correction: Fixed misspellings of “specific” and “mandatory.”

P. 318: Updates to Appendix 11 via BLM and approved by NCDE Subcommittee (April 2019):

- Remove “Draft” and “for Management Zone 1” from the title of Appendix 11 to accurately reflect that the Appendix contains standards for Zone 1, Zone 2, and PCA. Add “for Missoula, Butte and Lewistown Field Offices.”
- Add “for Zone 1” to the first header Road Density Standards to accurately reflect the Zone 1 strategy standards.
- Add header “Road Density Standards for PCA” before the 4th and 5th paragraph of Appendix 11 to accurately reflect that these management standards apply to PCA lands.
- Remove “Missoula Field Office” from paragraph 4 of Appendix 11 to accurately reflect that the PCA road density standards apply to all BLM lands with PCA, not just the Missoula Field Office. Begin the paragraph with “Baseline levels of secure core, OMRD and TMRD will be maintained in each BMU subunit.” Insert “each” before “field office” at the end of the paragraph.

P. 276: Correction: Fixed misspelling of “management” in Table 3.