

Director Hank Worsch
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Helena, Montana
Sent electronically to: Hank.Worsch@mt.gov

December 8, 2022

Dear Director Worsch,

We the undersigned respectfully request that you extend the public comment period on the Draft Statewide Grizzly Bear Management Plan by at least 30 days, or until February 5th, 2023. We represent all the grizzly bear habitat areas in Montana and beyond. This request was previously made to Randy Arnold, Region 2 Supervisor by signers Keith Hammer and Bonnie Rice at the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee's NCDE subcommittee meeting on December 1st. Mr. Arnold did not provide a response.

There are two major extenuating circumstances that require this extension. One is the holiday season. Most people are very busy with family, friends, workplace and travel. Restricting the comment period to this season is difficult for the public and comes at a time when many Fish, Wildlife & Parks staff are on holiday vacation and unavailable for technical support. The other is the volume and technical nature of the documents. The documents released for public comment total 468 pages. In order for the public to conduct review and submit substantive comment, more than 30 days are required.

We request your immediate decision so we may plan accordingly. Please reply to: jocelyn@westernwatersheds.org

Sincerely,

George Nickas, Executive Director
Wilderness Watch
Missoula

Jocelyn Leroux, Washington and Montana Director
Western Watersheds Project
Missoula

Patty Ames, President
Flathead-Lolo-Bitterroot Citizen Task Force
Missoula

Jeff Juel, Montana Policy Director
Friends of the Clearwater
Missoula

Jim Miller, President
Friends of the Bitterroot
Hamilton

Keith Hammer, Chair
Swan View Coalition
Kalispell

Paul Sieracki
Wildlife biologist/geospatial analyst
Priest River, ID

Kari Gunderson, PhD
LLC Montana Wilderness Education School
Swan Valley

Adam Rissien, ReWilding Coordinator
WildEarth Guardians
Missoula

Peter Metcalf, Executive Director
Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance
East Glacier

Denise Boggs
Conservation Congress
Great Falls

Bonnie Rice, Wildlife Program Manager
Sierra Club
Bozeman

Mike Garrity, executive director
Alliance for the Wild Rockies
Helena

Paul Edwards, President
Alliance for the Wild Rockies
Helena

Lousia Willcox
Grizzly Times
Livingston

Connie Poten
Footloose Montana
Missoula

Chris Bachman, Conservation Director
Yaak Valley Forest Council
Yaak Valley

Clinton Nagel, President
Gallatin Wildlife Association
Bozeman

Phil Knight
Conservation Consultant
Bozeman

Arlene Montgomery, Program Director
Friends of the Wild Swan
Swan Lake

Andrea Zaccardi, Carnivore Conservation Legal Director
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Joseph Scalia III, Psy.D., President
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George Wuerthner
Public Lands Media
Livingston

Mike Bader
Ecological Research Services
Missoula

Andy Mahler, Director
Protect Our Woods
Indiana

Sam Stearns, Public Education Coordinator
Friends of Bell Smith Springs
Illinois