



23 May 2024

Tri State Grizzly Bear MOA
C/O Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Re: Tri-State Grizzly Bear MOA

Dear Commissioners and Director Temple:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Tri-State Grizzly Bear MOA.

SCI supports the proposed Tri-State Grizzly Bear MOA because it generally demonstrates responsible and sustainable state management of grizzly bears. The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear population is recovered and no longer meets the Endangered Species Act's definition of a threatened species. SCI strongly supports the return to state management and the opening of a hunting season to properly manage grizzly population and range expansion and conflicts. Although SCI disagrees with the State's stated plan to refrain from hunting grizzly bears for at least five years after removal from the ESA lists, SCI supports mortality limits that ensure long-term survival of the grizzly bear population while also allocating discretionary mortality for regulated hunting of grizzly bears. SCI and SCI members look forward to hunting grizzlies in Montana when legal and within the allotted 34% of discretionary grizzly bear mortality.

Sound science-based conservation is necessary to the long-term health of wildlife. SCI believes that this management strategy should include hunting as the primary management tool, including hunting of grizzly bears when delisted. Hunters have long paid the way for wildlife, both game and non-game species. Maximizing the opportunity for hunting is key to ensuring long-term funding for wildlife and habitat conservation and support for species across the landscape. Hunting benefits wildlife conservation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Tri-State Grizzly Bear MOA. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and we appreciate the continued partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Commission. SCI is always first for hunters.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "W. Laird Hamberlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

W. Laird Hamberlin
Chief Executive Officer
Safari Club International