Attachments:

Lake Koocanusa Tributary Sampling, 2016— many of the tributaries Se levels are .04 and .05. That is within .03-.04 of the new standard. This doesn't leave much room for industry.

Grizzly Bears in the Cabinet/Yaak booklet—stated logging and mining won't be affected. The reality is we lost all the lumber mills and thousands of miles of forest access roads in Lincoln county under this management.

Lincoln County Timber Receipts—This shows the decline of the timber receipts on the Kootenai National Forest after we were promised the Grizzly Bear listing would not drastically effect Lincoln County. The Timber receipts declined from 4.7 million in 1990 to 2.1 million in 2001. When 78% of the land mass is managed by the USFS excessive regulation opens all mining, timber sales, and development to frivolous lawsuits by environmental activists. This has been detrimental to Lincoln County.

DEQ Analysis of 2013 Lake Koocanusa Sediment Data—the sediment data shows the Selenium load above the highwater mark is comparable to that below the high water mark. That means the Selenium is naturally occurring. The natural levels of tributaries are near the .08 standard.

I respectfully ask that the Water Policy committee to take into account the detrimental effects the new selenium standard will have on Lincoln County industry and its citizens. In the greater picture the study of selenium in Lake Koocanusa has been pretty short. Drastic changes to regulation only opens up management to frivolous lawsuits. I urge you to remove the .08 standard and revert back to the 1.5 standard that the EPA has in place.

Sincerely,

Josh Letcher

Lincoln County Commissioner

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Timber Receipts

~~1990~~		
1990	4.7 million	
1991	4.5 "	
1992	5.4 "	
1993	6.7 "	4.4 mill pr yr
1994	6.5 "	average
1995	4.9 "	1990 - 1999
1996	4.2 "	
1997	3.1 "	
1998	3.8 "	
1999	2.8 "	
2000	3.5 "	
2001	2.1 "	

It takes $2.\frac{13}{xx}$ today to equal 1.00 in 1990

1.13 increase in 32 yrs

1990 4.7 million = 10.011 million today

Trib Name	Dissolved ug/L * estimated
Jackson Creek near mouth	.5
Barron Creek near mouth	.2
Tobacco River at mouth	.3
Pinkham Creek at mouth	.2
Sutton Creek about 1.5 mi upstream of mouth	.3
McGuire Creek at mouth	.5
Tweed Creek at mouth	.3
Sheep Creek at mouth	.2
Tenmile Creek near mouth	.3
Fivemile Creek near mouth	.3
Warland Creek at mouth	.5
Cripple Horse Creek near mouth	.2
Canyon Creek at mouth	.4
Dunn Creek near mouth	.2

Trib Name	Dissolved ug/L * estimated
Young Creek near mouth	.2
Dodge Creek at mouth	.4
Poverty Creek at mouth	.4
Sullivan Creek at mouth	.4
Boulder Creek at mouth	.3
Gold Creek at mouth	.04
Big Creek at mouth	.3
N. Fork Parsnip Creek at mouth	.2
Parsnip Creek at mouth	.2
Giebler Creek at mouth	.3
Ural Creek near mouth	.2
Bristow Creek at road crossing	.5
Kootenai River at Osprey Landing Boat Ramp	1.1**
Alexander Creek at mouth	.3

** Not estimated

WILL THE PUBLIC BE KEPT INFORMED OF THE RELEASED BEARS' LOCATIONS?

Yes, weekly releases with the general location of the placed bears will be given to the Lincoln and Sanders county newspapers. Precise locations will not be released.

IF A TRANSPLANTED BEAR ATTACKS SOMEONE, WHAT HAPPENS? WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Bears frequenting human use areas will be captured and either relocated to remote areas or removed, depending on the particular conflict. Should a bear be involved in an aggressive, unprovoked attack, the animal will be destroyed. The management agencies are responsible for minimizing any chances of bear/human conflict.

WILL LOGGING, MINING OR OTHER HUMAN ACTIVITIES BE INCREASINGLY RESTRICTED IF BEAR NUMBERS INCREASE?

No. Current management under the Kootenai Forest Plan will not change as a result of the placement. There should be no change in current management if bear numbers gradually increase or decrease. Timber sales and access to public lands should not be affected by bear presence. Activities on public lands in the Cabinet/Yaak ecosystem are currently designed to minimize negative impacts to bears through the environmental assessment process.

WILL DESIGNATED HABITAT FOR GRIZZLY BEARS BE EXPANDED ON THE BASIS OF MOVEMENTS OF PLACED BEARS?

No. Recovery areas are delineated in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan. The recovery area will not be increased or changed due to movements of replaced bears. There may eventually be limited changes to the recovery zone boundaries as more information becomes available on the grizzly, but this would be done with public involvement.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A GRIZZLY IS SEEN AT A TIMBER SALE?

Nothing. The bear would be monitored to insure that there is no threat to humans or the bear. If a threat arises, the sale could be temporarily halted, but this is unlikely and has not occurred in the past.

DO GRIZZLY BEARS KILL LIVESTOCK? WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY DO?

Yes. A small percentage of bears learn to kill sheep and cattle. If they persist they are relocated or killed.

WILL BLACK BEAR HUNTING BE CLOSED IN THE CABINETS TO PROTECT GRIZZLIES? WHAT HAPPENS IF A HUNTER KILLS A GRIZZLY BY MISTAKE?

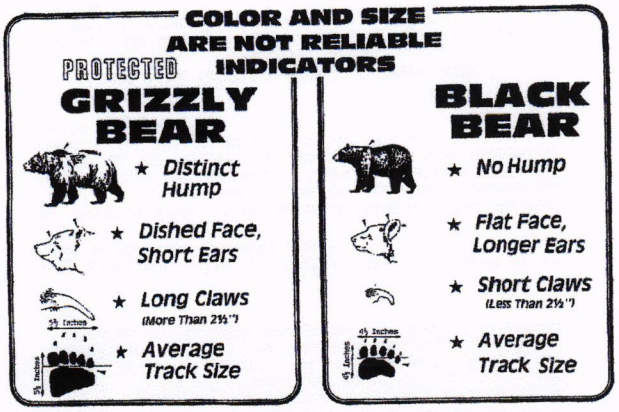
Black bear hunting has not been impacted in the past, and no plans exist to enact restrictions in the future. All hunters are expected to learn the distinguishing characteristics of the species they are hunting. If a hunter accidentally kills a grizzly bear by mistake, he will be charged with illegal killing, just as an elk hunter would be if he shot a moose by mistake.

WHAT IMPACT WILL INCREASING GRIZZLY POPULATIONS HAVE ON BLACK BEARS?

Biologists do not know of any impact of an increasing grizzly population on black bears, but an intensive research project has been initiated on the interactions between the two species in another ecosystem to determine if there are any effects.

WILL IT EVER BE POSSIBLE TO HUNT GRIZZLIES IN THE CABINET/YAAK?

If the population reaches viable levels, a hunting season may be possible. As discussed in the management section, at least 70 to 90 bears must make up a population for it to sustain the killing of one adult female annually.



Identification characteristics for grizzly and black bears.

For more information contact:

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Missoula, Montana 59812
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406-243-5540

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506 US Highway 2 West
Libby, Montana 59923
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Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
Helena, Montana 59601
406-444-2612