

Draft Chapter 68: Grizzly Bear Hunting Seasons



Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Jackson Region – April 17, 2018



HISTORY and BACKGROUND

- The grizzly bear was originally listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act in 1975
 - Since then, recovery goals, management criteria, and monitoring protocols have been largely defined by the USFWS
 - Recovery Criteria – These have evolved: Currently 3 Criteria evaluated annually to demonstrate population recovery
- 2007 Delisting
 - Federal District Courts determined regulatory mechanisms were adequate but potential effects of White Bark Pine were not adequately described by USFWS in 2007 rule



HISTORY and BACKGROUND

- Court's finding prompted the *Food Synthesis Report* and multiple peer-reviewed publications demonstrating the adaptability, viability and recovery of GYE grizzly bears
 - Changes in population trajectory related to density dependence not limitation of food sources
 - Additional peer reviewed literature demonstrating genetic vigor
- Proposed delisting rule from USFWS - March 2016
- Updated Wyoming Grizzly Bear Management Plan adopted by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission May 2016



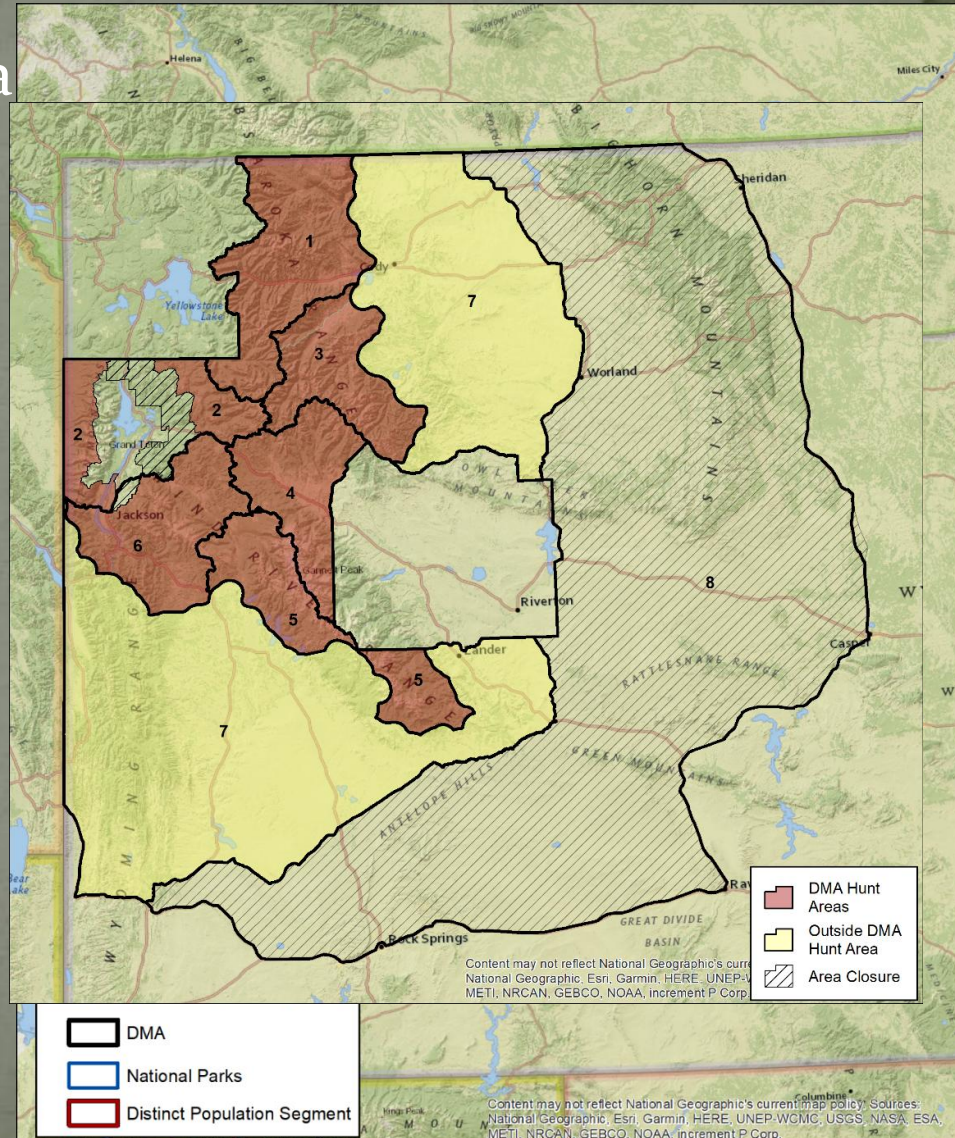
HISTORY and BACKGROUND

- Wyoming Grizzly Bear Management Regulations – Ch. 67
 - Regulatory framework for grizzly bear management to ensure maintenance of a recovered grizzly bear population in Wyoming – requirement of proposed delisting rule
 - Boundaries and general definitions
 - Portions of Management Plan and Conservation Strategy formalized into regulation → regulatory mechanisms
 - Approved by Commission July 8, 2016
- 2017 Delisting
 - Final Delisting Rule published by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service June 30, 2017
 - Must still meet recovery criteria – protections have NOT been “stripped”



Background

- Demographic Monitoring Area (DMA)
 - Suitable habitat for grizzly bears in the GYE
 - 49,931 km² (19,279 mi²)
 - WY Portion: 28,960 km²
 - Hunt areas 1-6
- Distinct Population Segment
 - Area where grizzly bears are delisted and under state management authority
 - Hunt areas 7 and 8



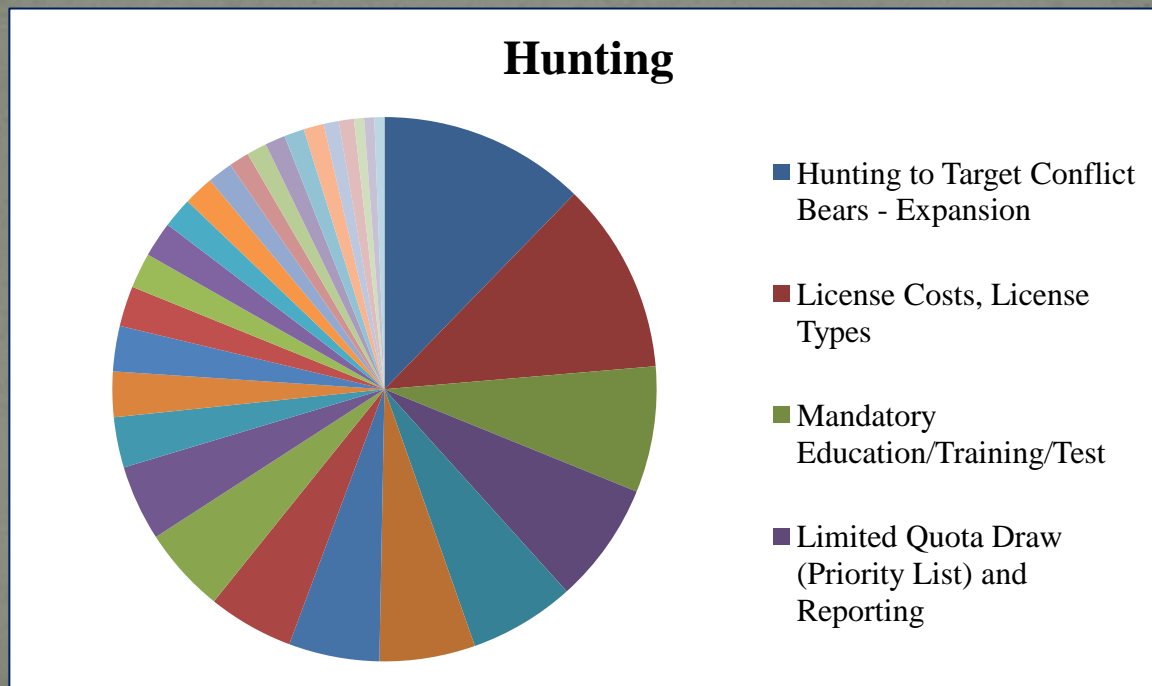
Going to the Public

- Public Scoping Meetings
 - Fall 2017
 - Public input from around the state
 - Major themes identified
 - Productive input from diverse perspectives



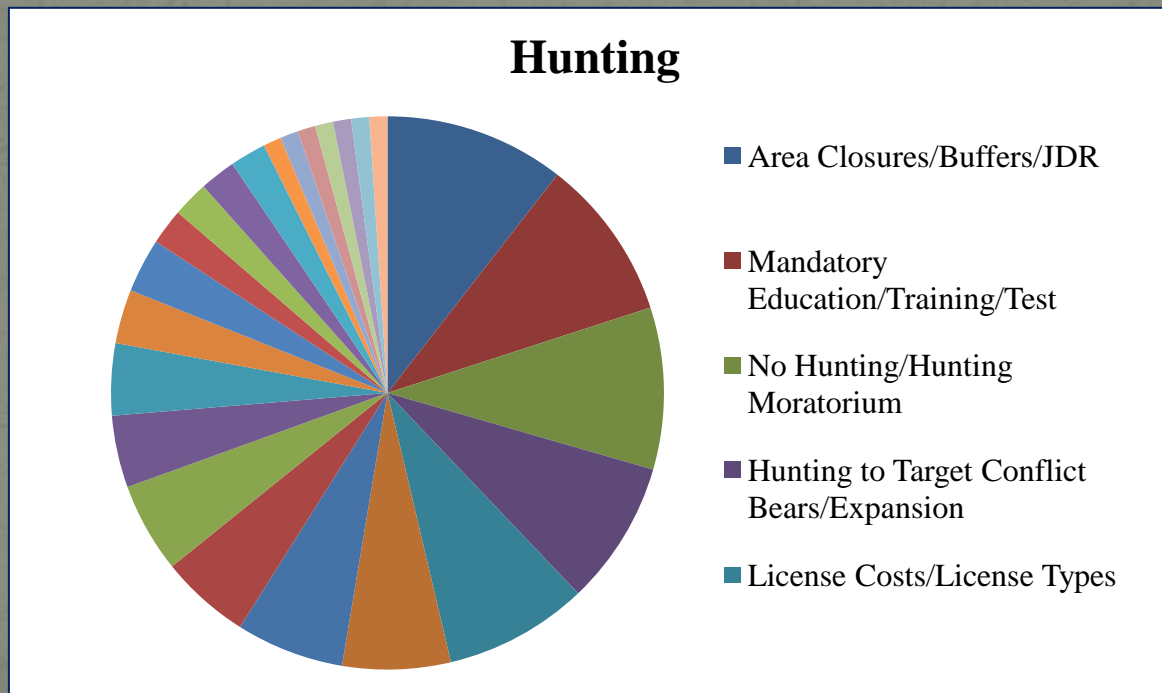
Harvest Management – Public Thoughts

- What ideas and suggestions do you have in regards to grizzly bear hunting in Wyoming?
 - 334 Comments/Ideas (Statewide)



Harvest Management – Jackson

- What ideas and suggestions do you have in regards to grizzly bear hunting in Wyoming?
 - 95 Comments/Ideas



Process

- Comments and discussions topics were brought before the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in Douglas, WY where the Commission directed the Game and Fish to develop grizzly bear hunting regulations for the Fall of 2018



Regulation Development

- *Hunting to target conflict bears and expansion*
 - Incorporated into proposed regulations
- *License costs, license types*
 - This is set in state statute
- *Mandatory education/training/proficiency*
 - Incorporated into proposed regulations
- *Area Closures and Additional Protections*
 - Incorporated into proposed regulations
- *Limited draw and include reporting of harvests*
 - Incorporated into proposed regulations



Allocating Harvest – Tri-State MOA

- Meet with Idaho and Montana in January to use the previous year's population estimates of abundance and mortality to derive potential mortality allocation for hunting within the DMA
 - If mortality thresholds were not exceeded, calculate what is available to be hunted without exceeding those thresholds
- Based on proportion of area within the DMA
- U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management are part of the meeting



Allocate DMA harvest mortality available

	<u>2017 DMA Population Estimate</u>	<u>2017 DMA Mortality Thresholds</u>
Independent males	250	50.0
Independent females	250	22.5
Dependent young	217	20
Total	718	

	<u>2017 DMA Grizzly Bear Mortality*</u>	<u>2018 Available DMA Harvest Limits</u>
Independent males	33	$50 - 33 = 17$
Independent females	20	$22.5 - 20 = 2.5$
Dependent young	12	N/A

	<u>Wyoming (58% of DMA)</u>	<u>Montana (34% of DMA)</u>	<u>Idaho (8% of DMA)</u>
Independent males	9.9	5.8	1.4
Independent females	1.5	0.9	0.2

* Represents TOTAL mortality documented AND an estimation of unknown/unreported mortality

Grizzly Bear Management Regulation

Draft Chapter 68

- Consists of twelve sections:
- Section 1: Authority
 - This regulation is promulgated by authority of Wyoming Statute § 23-1-302, § 23-1-703, 23-2-101, and § 23-2-104
- Section 2: Definitions
 - Dependent young
 - DMA boundary
 - License issuance list
 - Baiting authorization permit



Section 3: License Lists and Drawing

- Areas 1 – 6 within DMA will have a license issuance list
 - Random selection for order in list
 - Licenses issued in that order when hunting opportunity exists
 - Issued until mortality limits reached or end of season
 - 75% resident, 25% non-resident
 - Those on list are not guaranteed a license
- Application period July 2 through July 16, 2018
 - Application fee \$5 for residents and \$15 for non-residents



Section 3: License Lists and Drawing

- Notifications
 - Notified of placement on list by mail
 - Phone call for confirmation of hunting opportunity
 - Minimum of 3 attempts for 2 consecutive evenings
 - Intervals and timing
 - If no contact then next person on list will be called
 - Must purchase license within 10 days of notification
 - \$600 for resident, \$6,000 for non-resident (set in statute)



Section 3: License Lists and Drawing

- Number of hunters initially contacted will not exceed female mortality limit
 - 2 in 2018
 - Only as many hunters in the field as available female mortality
- Continue until female or male mortality limit is met or season closing date



Section 3: License Lists and Drawing

- Limited quota drawing for area 7
 - Can only apply for areas 1-6 or area 7, but not both
 - Total limit of 12 grizzly bears in area 7
 - Either sex (family groups and dependent young protected)



Hunting Regulations

- Section 4: Bag limits and number of licenses
 - One license per person and one grizzly bear per license
- Section 5: Hunting regulations
 - No baiting in areas 1-6
 - No use of dogs, trapping, radio telemetry
 - No take of dependent young or females with dependent young

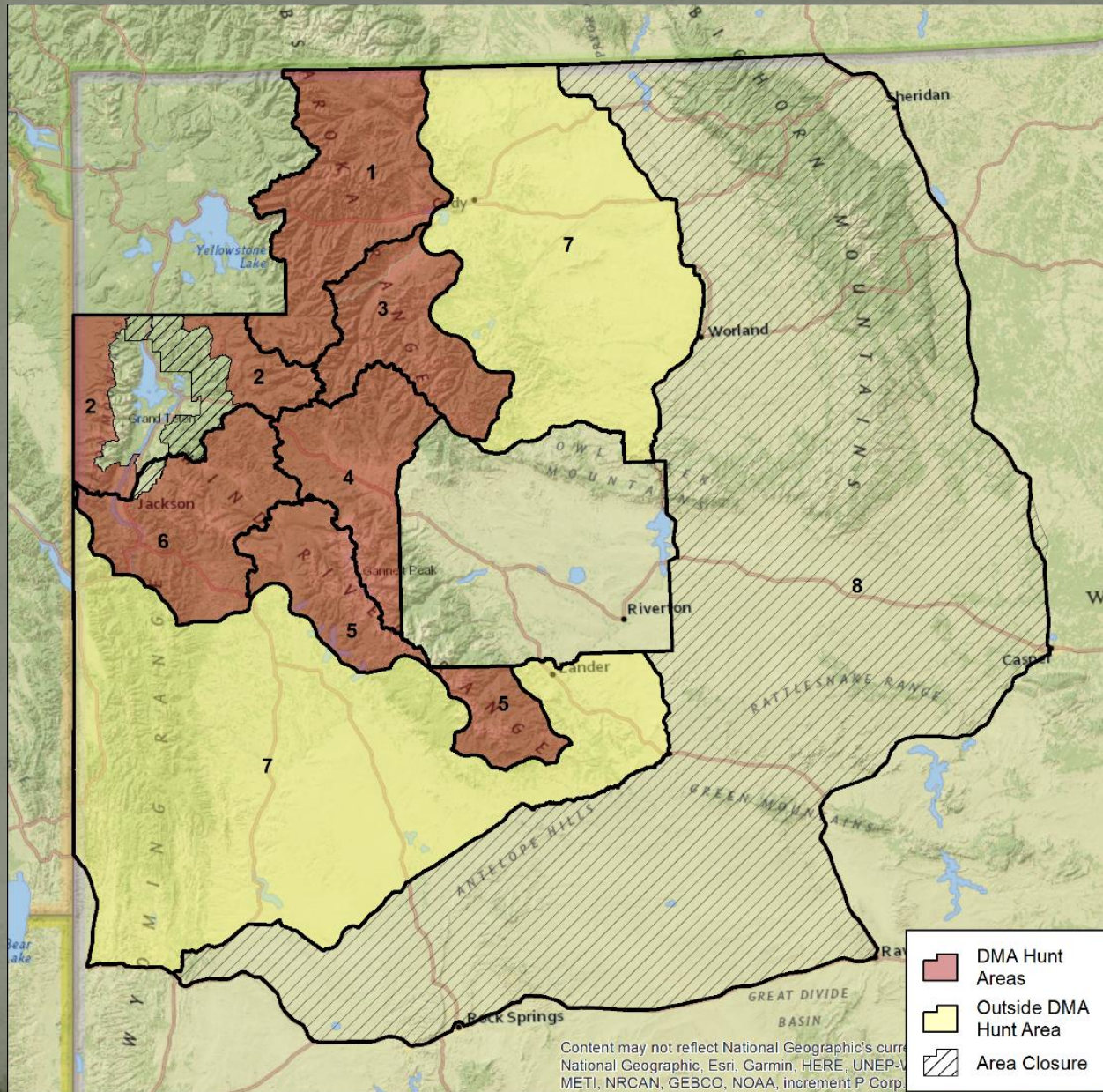


Hunting Regulations

- Section 5: Hunting regulations (continued)
 - **Mandatory reporting**
 - 24hr reporting requirement established in Ch. 67
 - Satellite communication device provided by Department (NOT a tracking device)
 - **Registration within 5 days**
 - **Mandatory orientation and training**
 - Department course for all licensed hunters
 - Bear ecology, safety and management
 - 2 cans of bear spray provided to licensed hunters
 - **No harvest within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of U.S. or state highway within areas 1-6 (435 km²)**



Section 6: Hunt Areas



Hunting Regulations

- Section 6: Hunt areas 1-6 seasons and limitations

Hunt Area	Type	Season Dates	License	Hunt Area Mortality Limit	Limitations
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1	Sep. 15 - Nov. 15	Grizzly Bear License Issuance List		Collective female mortality limit – not to exceed 2 Collective male mortality limit – not to exceed 10
1	1	Sep. 15 - Nov. 15	Grizzly Bear License Issuance List	2	Any grizzly bear; See Section 6 (b) and (d)
2	1	Sep. 15 - Nov. 15	Grizzly Bear License Issuance List	1	Any grizzly bear; See Section 6 (b), (d) and (e)
3	1	Sep. 15 - Nov. 15	Grizzly Bear License Issuance List	2	Any grizzly bear; See Section 6 (b) and (d)
4	1	Sep. 15 - Nov. 15	Grizzly Bear License Issuance List	3	Any grizzly bear; See Section 6 (b) and (d)
5	1	Sep. 15 - Nov. 15	Grizzly Bear License Issuance List	3	Any grizzly bear; See Section 6 (b) and (d)
6	1	Sep. 15 - Nov. 15	Grizzly Bear License Issuance List	2	Any grizzly bear; See Section 6 (b) and (d)



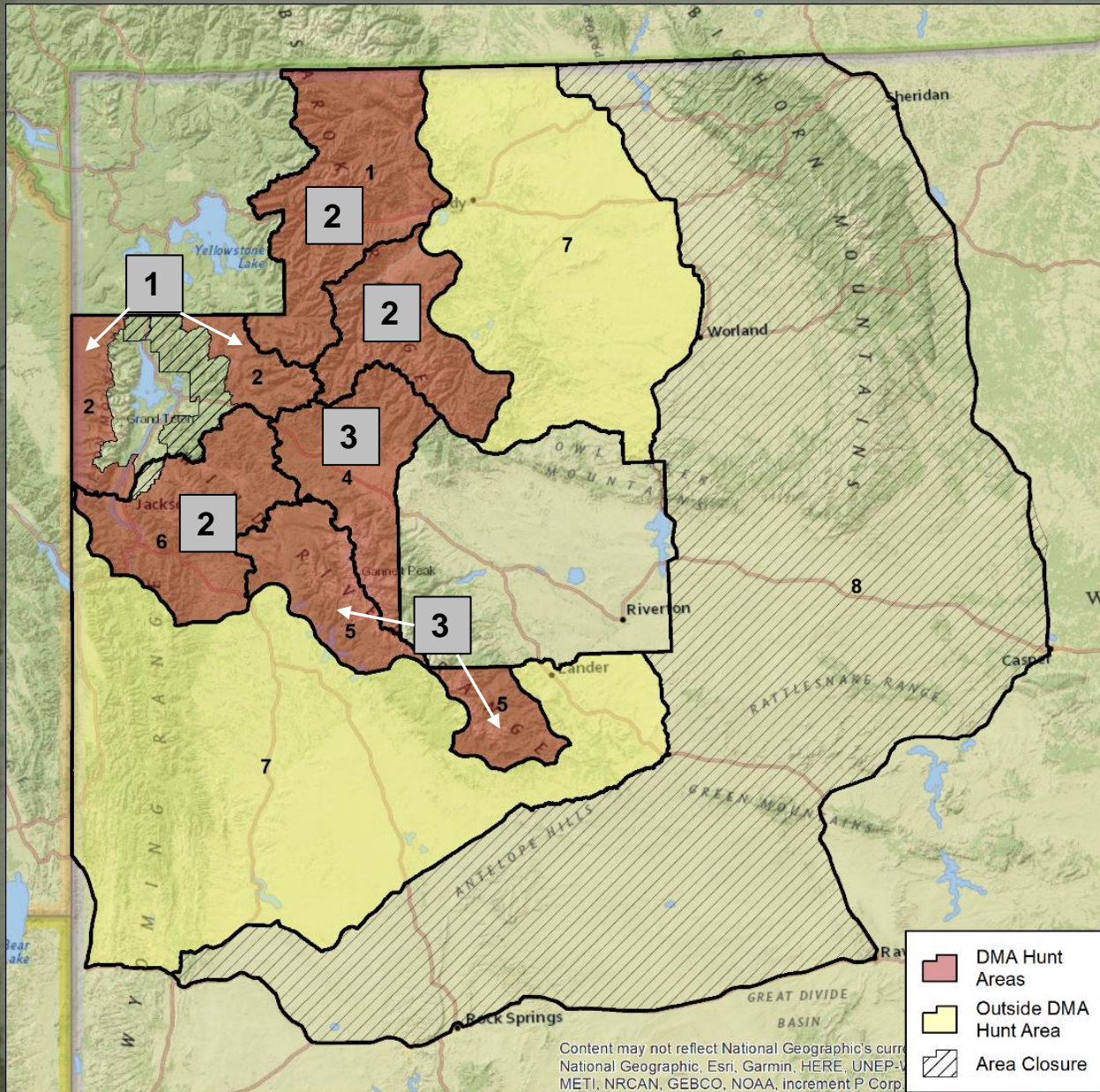
Hunting Regulations

- Section 6: Hunt areas 1-6 seasons and limitations

Hunt Area	Type	Season Dates	License	Hunt Area Mortality Limit	Limitations
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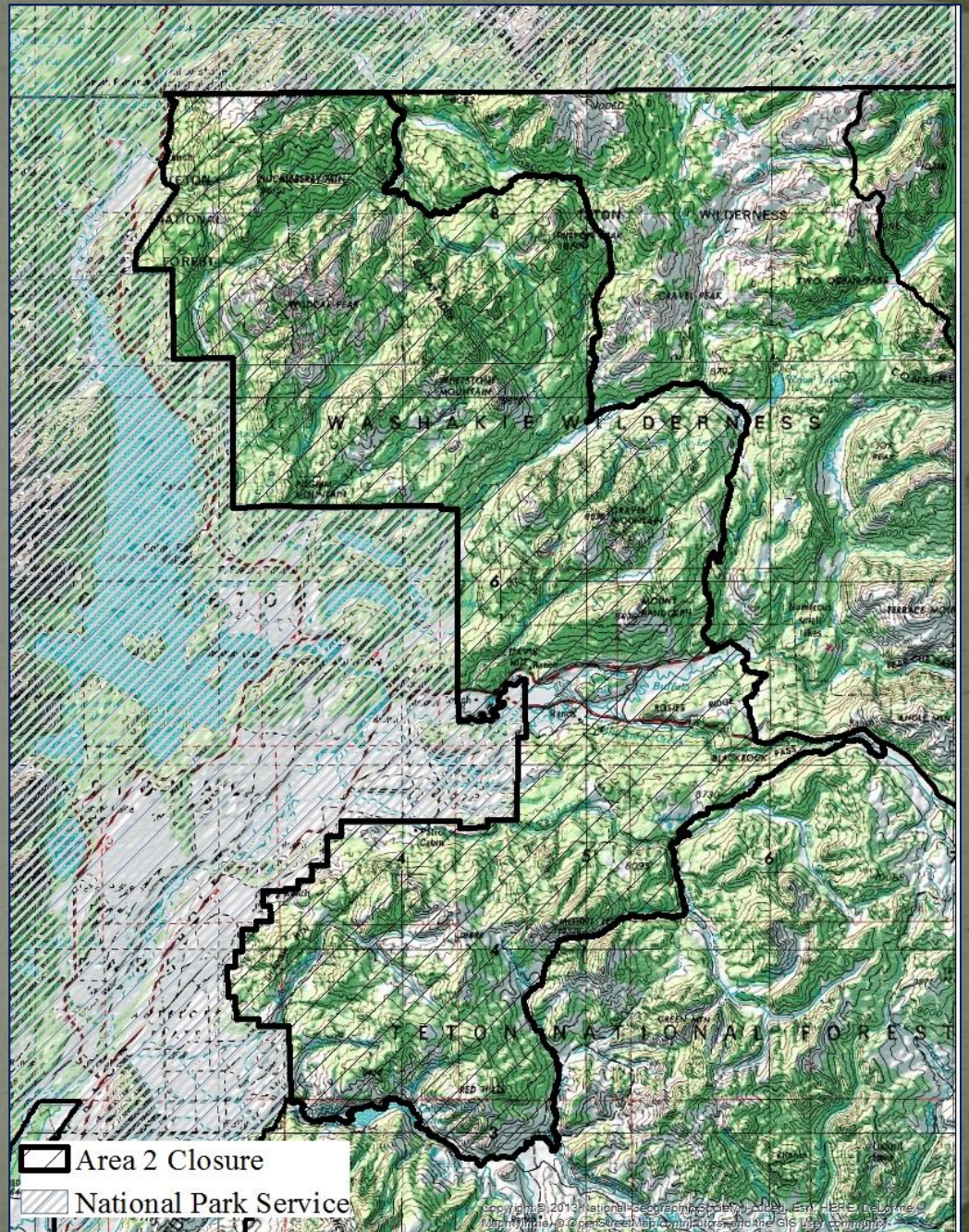
Hunt Areas 1 – 6



- License valid for all areas 1-6
- Area will close when area-specific limit is reached
- Season will close for all areas when collective female or male limit is reached
- Additional closure areas in Hunt Area 2



Area 2 Closure



Hunting Regulations

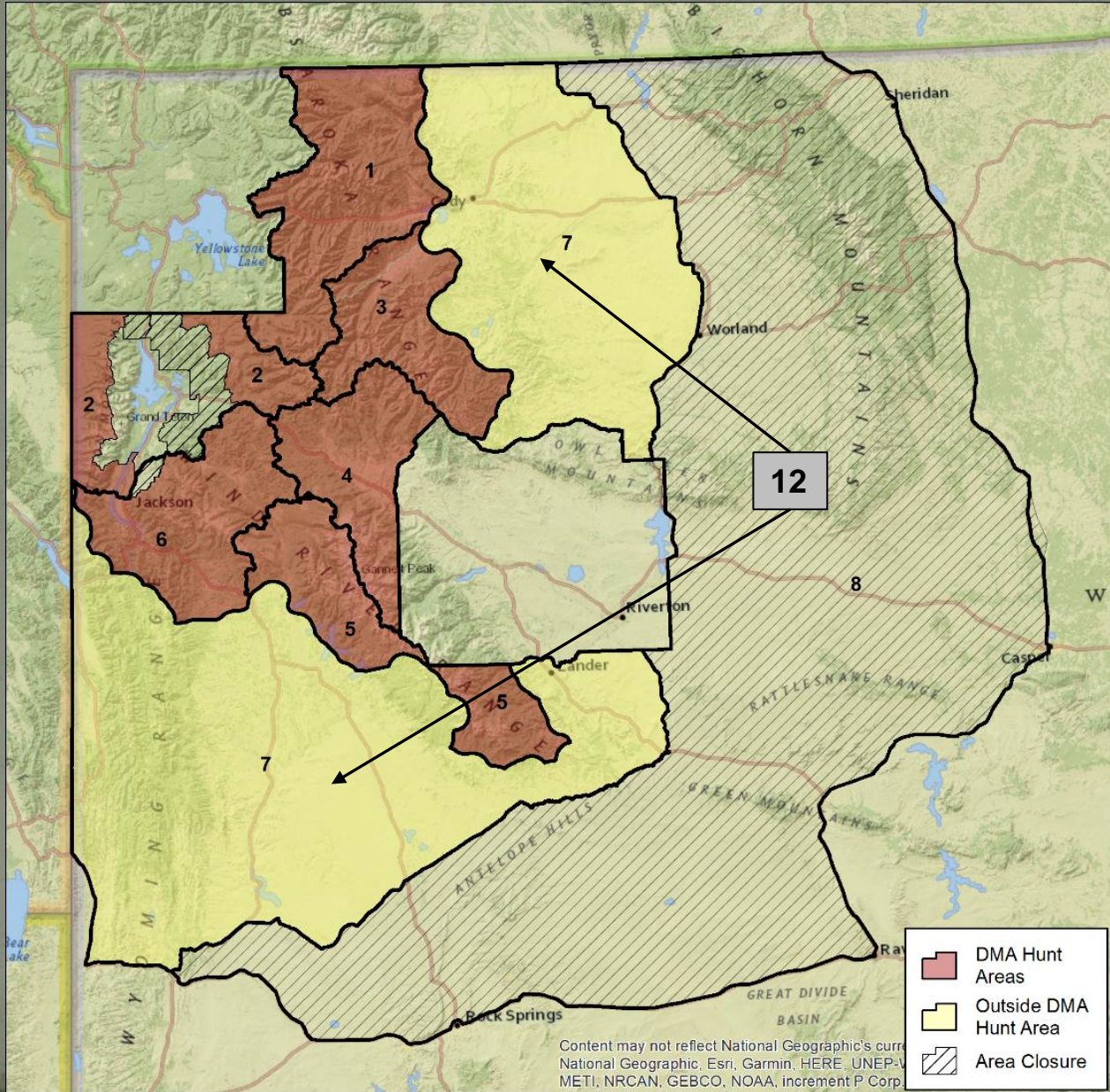
- Section 6: Hunt areas 7 and 8 seasons and limitations

Hunt Area	Type	Season Dates	Mortality Limit	License	Limitations
7	1	Sep. 1 - Nov. 15	12	Limited Quota	Any grizzly bear
8		Sep. 1 - Nov. 15		Limited Quota	Any grizzly bear; See Section 6 (g)

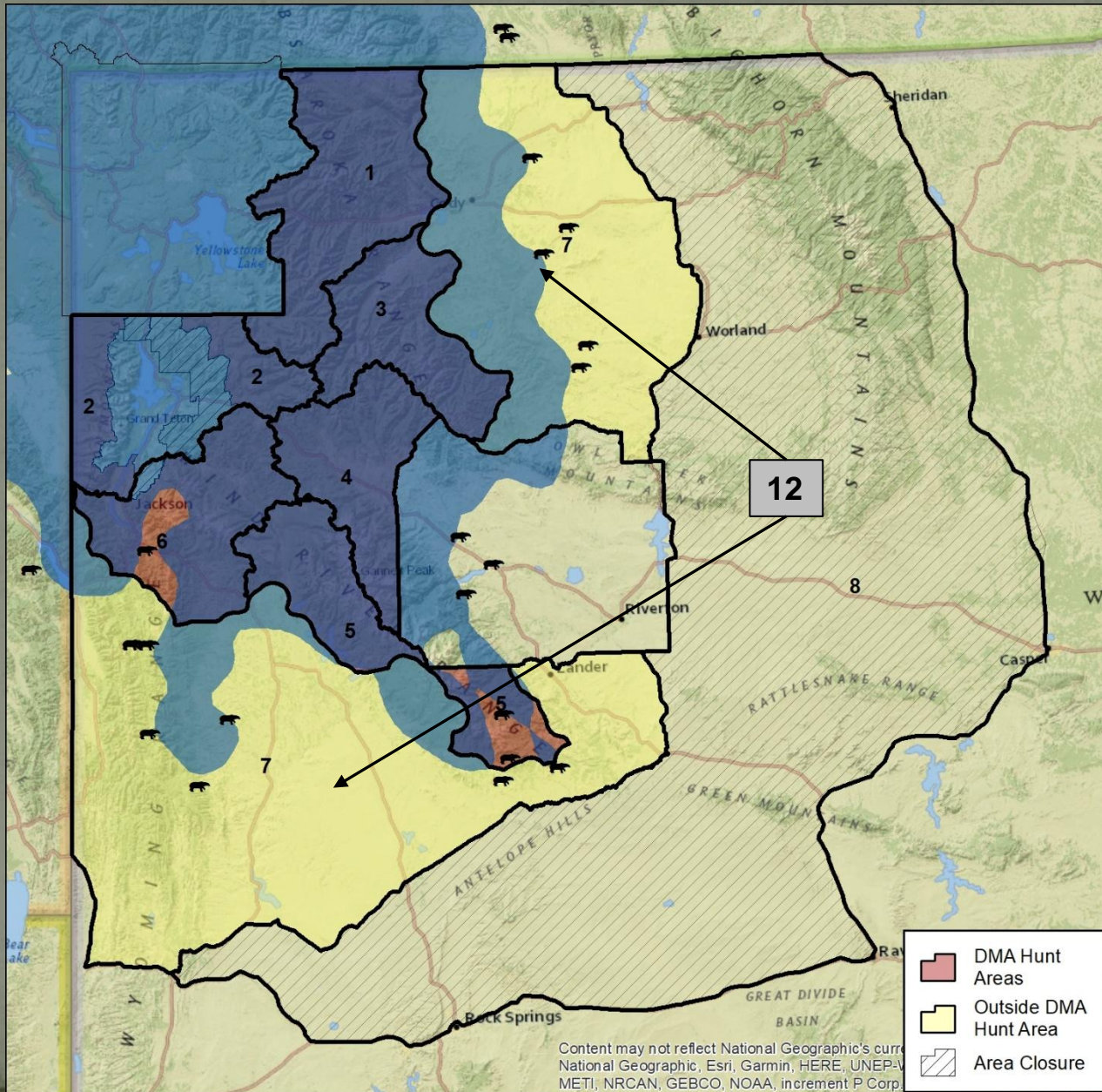
- License valid for male or female grizzly bear
- Season will close when overall limit is reached or on season closure date
- 6(g) - Grizzly bears currently do not exist in area 8



Hunt Areas 7 and 8



Hunt Areas 7 and 8



Hunting Regulations

- Section 7: Baiting Authorization Permit
 - **Limited circumstances – Discretion of Game and Fish**
 - Only valid for areas 7 and 8
- Section 8: Hunt area status
 - Hunter must check hotline to make sure area is open
- Section 9: Hunt area boundary descriptions
- Section 10: Withdrawal, modification, and refunds
- Section 11: Reservation of grizzly bear license
- Section 12: Super tag licenses
 - No issuance of grizzly bear licenses through Super Tag or Super Tag Trifecta raffle



What's Next?

- Public comment period open until 5:00 PM, April 30
- Department will summarize and consider public comment
 - (As of 11am, 4/16/2018 – 1556 comments through online system)
- The Commission will receive the Department's recommendation and review this regulation at their May 23 meeting in Lander
 - The Commission may receive and consider additional public comment at the Lander meeting



Public Comment Process:

- Written comments shall be accepted at public meetings, by standard mail at the address below or on the Department's website at wgfd.wyo.gov/Get-Involved/Public-Meetings
- Comments WILL NOT be accepted via email, fax or telephone. All written comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Monday, April 30th.

Mail comments to:

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Attn: Regulations

3030 Energy Lane

Casper, WY 82604



Questions?



Mark God

