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## Thank You!

Dear Greetings :

At the end of each year we ask for your financial support of our work.

Over the next few weeks of this fall fundraising season we will give you a short sketch of our key issues, explain why each is important, the status of the issue, and how your support will be used to further the work.

[This week we feature our new "Grizzly Bear Project."](#)

Please feel free to call us at any time with your questions or to discuss your donation.

Cheers and thanks! ~ Dave



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## Please Donate

Click [here](#) to make your tax-deductible donation to Headwaters Montana.

Thank you!

## Our Key Issues 2017:

### *"De-List" the Grizzly Bear? Finding a Path through the Debate*

#### Our "Grizzly Bear Project"

*What do you think about Grizzly Bear recovery? Has it been a success in your mind? How can we hold on to that success long-term? Do you think Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks can manage Grizzlies without federal funding? What about the proposed hunt of Grizzlies? Are you "for" or "against" the hunt?*



As you've no doubt [read](#), the Grizzly Bear is "recovered" and headed toward "de-listing" in the Yellowstone and Northern Continental Divide populations. At least that's what the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) are saying.

By all accounts, the protection afforded the Grizzly under the Endangered Species Act has led to a remarkable 40-year recovery. While this success continues, recovery efforts have always needed a substantial push from environmental groups to overcome government agency inertia and resistance. For example it wasn't [until 1991 that Montana's FWP department was forced to end the hunting of Grizzlies](#). Hard to believe!

Today, most Montanans regard the Grizzly as emblematic of our state. Millions travel to Montana each year in the hopes of just glimpsing this amazing creature. Griz are moving out of the parks



Our 2016  
Fundraising  
Goal =  
\$21,000



A small bog feature in Cataract Creek on the Kootenai National Forest, Montana. One of the countless places where Nature establishes balance when left un-manipulated. (Photo: Dave Hadden)



A bear tree in Cataract Creek on the Kootenai National Forest, Montana, being inspected by Doug Ferrell, a leader in the [Kootenai Forest Stakeholder](#)



The University of  
Montana logo

encountered strong resistance from [some conservation groups](#) and [Native American tribes](#). These constituencies argue that the Great Bear has not truly recovered because vast areas of former habitat remain unoccupied, populations remains vulnerable and isolated, and de-listing plans would allow hunting of Grizzlies, a sacred animal to Native Americans.



GOAL - Guardians of Our Ancestors Legacy "has taken the fight to protect the sacred grizzly bear and our religious and spiritual rights..." View the GOAL website [here](#).

"Grizzly Bear Project."

We think Grizzlies can continue to expand and repatriate their ancestral territory under the management of Montana FWP, but existing management plans need to be reconsidered and broadened. In addition, further recovery will be very slow unless Montana FWP overcomes its limited funding capacity for wildlife management in general, and for Grizzlies in particular.

Here' what *Headwaters Montana* is doing:

- **We initiated the Grizzly Bear Project** to bring together conservation leaders from across the state to find a way forward.
- **Montanans need to be asked** what they think about Grizzly Bear management, recovery, and hunting. No solid, current information exists on Montana citizens' attitudes on these issues. *A statewide public opinion poll would provide this critical information.*
- **Montana needs to fix the funding** of its wildlife management agency, in part to insure successful, long-term state management of Grizzly Bears. Did you know that as a state taxpayer your taxes contribute nothing for wildlife management? Only hunters, or 3 percent of Montanans, pay for state wildlife management. It's time to "democratize" wildlife management in Montana, as well as secure the future of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

and "repatriating" the landscape that has always been their birthright.

However, federal and state de-listing efforts have



The [Vital Ground Foundation](#) license plate. Proceeds support acquisition of vital habitat. This popular license plate can be seen on every type of vehicle species - attesting to the Great Bear's almost universal appeal.

How will the conflict resolve between government pressure to de-list and further conservation and recovery? Is there a middle ground? Would Grizzlies continue to recover and expand under state management?

*Headwaters Montana* is addressing these questions through its new

The **Grizzly Bear Project** represents an ambitious effort. *Headwaters Montana* will help

[Coalition, Montana Wilderness Association,](#) and [Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.](#) (Photo: Dave Hadden)



*Photo credit: [Jim Lawrence](#)*

build the coalition of public interests that will work to resolve management conflict and achieve the repatriation of Grizzlies across its ancestral territory.

*Please support this effort! Your financial support of Headwaters*

*Montana keeps us engaged in this significant conservation goal. Please donate today to our end of year fundraising goal.*

**Thank you!**