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Comment from gereb, barry

Posted by the **Fish and Wildlife Service** on Mar 17, 2026[Docket \(/docket/FWS-HQ-ES-2025-1463\)](#)[/ Document \(FWS-HQ-ES-2025-1463-0001\) \(/document/FWS-HQ-ES-2025-1463-0001\)](#) / [Comment](#)

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I support expanding regulated hunting access to include all species affected under these experimental population programs, provided it is done within a science-based and carefully managed framework.

As outlined in the notice, current policies already recognize that “take” can occur under a range of circumstances, including depredation, defense of life and property, and authorized management actions. However, limiting hunting primarily to reactive or narrowly defined situations may not fully address broader ecosystem imbalances or growing human-wildlife conflicts.

Opening regulated hunting opportunities across all affected species—such as gray wolves and grizzly bears—can serve as a proactive management tool rather than a purely reactive one. When populations expand without sufficient natural controls, the result can include increased livestock losses, pressure on ungulate herds, and higher risks to human safety. The document itself emphasizes the importance of monitoring mortality, depredation, and population dynamics to evaluate management effectiveness. Expanding hunting access would complement these efforts by helping maintain populations at sustainable levels.

Importantly, such an approach does not mean removing protections or acting without oversight. Hunting seasons, quotas, and geographic restrictions should remain grounded in rigorous data collection and adaptive management. The existing reporting requirements—such as mandatory notification of lethal take and detailed incident documentation—provide a strong foundation for accountability and transparency. These mechanisms can ensure that expanded hunting remains consistent with recovery goals under the Endangered Species Act.

Additionally, broader hunting access can empower local communities, landowners, and Tribal entities to participate more directly in wildlife management. The document already acknowledges the role of these groups in reporting, monitoring, and managing species interactions. Expanding their ability to act within a regulated hunting framework would reduce response times to conflicts and distribute management responsibility more effectively.

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In conclusion, expanding regulated hunting to all affected species—when guided by science, strict oversight, and adaptive management—can improve ecological balance, reduce human-wildlife conflict, and strengthen long-term conservation outcomes. It aligns with the document’s emphasis on data-driven management and offers a more comprehensive, proactive approach to sustaining both wildlife populations and human interests.

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