



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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10/30/2020

Memorial Bear Fund
1472 N. 5th Street, Suite 201
Laramie, WY 82072

To whom it may concern,

I write this letter in support of Safari Club International Foundations (SCIF) grant proposal for a Wyoming bear spray giveaway. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) has held a bear spray giveaway to hunters and anglers for five of the last six years. The Department views these bear spray giveaways as positive way to promote being prepared while hunting in occupied grizzly bear habitat.

Hunters and anglers are predisposed to encounters due to the nature of their activities, which in turn leads to higher proportion of aggressive-defensive encounters with bears. By giving hunters and anglers a means to defend themselves, with canisters of bear spray, as well as promoting the need to be prepared in bear country, we are setting an example of how to behave while recreating. Minimizing human caused bear mortality is an important means of ensuring the health of this bear population. In order to accomplish this goal it is critical that hunters carry bear spray and understand bear behavior. This approach is part of the Departments goal of reducing human-bear conflicts to demonstrate Wyoming's dedication to managing grizzly bears.

SCIF has been a long standing advocate for hunters and because of this will continue to be an important partner for the WGFD. The grant proposal works to further this partnership as well as address the common goal of reducing human-bear conflicts on the landscape. Therefore, the Department is endorsing this proposal and its strong benefits to hunters and anglers.

Sincerely,

Dusty L. Lasseter
Bear Wise Coordinator