*Conservation Science and Practice* 17 July, 2023

Dear Dr. Murcia,

On behalf of my co-authors, I am pleased to resubmit the manuscript *Unsecured attractants, collisions, and high mortality strain coexistence between grizzly bears and people in the Elk Valley, southeast British Columbia* for your consideration for publication as a Contributed Paper in Conservation Science and Practice.

We’ve addressed the minor comments from reviewers below. We respond to reviewer one’s main concern about animals passing through the study area. In summary we do not see this as a concern as animals on the edge are explicitly accommodated in spatial capture recapture models (it’s one of the main reasons these models were invented). We do not advise using non-spatial models as using non-spatial models as these methods would introduce bias that is already accounted for in the methods we are currently using. The biological interpretation that the observed abundance has remained stable while information from collared animals suggests the population in situ should be declining is well supported from these data, analyses, and the previous work in this system. We made all changes suggested by reviewer two and addressed their remaining concerns.

We believe the manuscript has improved because of the revision. Thank you for considering our work and we look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,



Clayton T. Lamb, PhD

Wildlife Science Center—Biodiversity Pathways

University of British Columbia