

# Rocky Mountain Front – Region Four Grizzly Bear Management Summary – Year 2016

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From Glacier National Park's southern boundary heading south to Wolf Creek, and from the Continental Divide eastward to beyond Interstate-15, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Park's Region Four bear management office received a total of 61 reported bear/human or livestock related conflicts in year 2016. All bear related conflict complaints were investigated, and of these, 42 were confirmed as grizzly bear-caused conflicts.

Of 42 confirmed grizzly bear conflicts in 2016 on the Rocky Mountain Front (RMF); the two most common types of conflicts were livestock depredations, at a total of 12 incidents, and residential conflicts, also at 12 separate incidents. There were also 6 confirmed property damage incidents, 5 chicken depredation/coop damage incidents, 4 bear-people encounters, and 3 beehive damages.

A total of 6 grizzly bears were captured in 2016. Four of these bears (2 subadult male gbears, 2 adult female gbears) were captured at conflict sites and defined as management bears, while two bears (1 subadult male gbear, 1 adult female gbear) were captured to meet NCDE population trend study objectives and considered research bears. We also monitored 12 radio-transmitted grizzly bears, both management and research bears through 2016 by radio telemetry via aircraft and by ground monitoring.

Management emphasis at nearly all confirmed grizzly bear conflict sites was prioritized towards implementing proven bear conflict preventative measures, and less often in taking control measures to capture and translocate grizzly bears away from established home ranges. Numerous grizzly bear conflict prevention methods and projects were used or completed in 2016, including deploying electric fence systems, conducting attractant removals and livestock carcass redistribution,