

Preliminary recommendations for reducing human-bear conflicts and grizzly bear mortalities in the Yellowstone Ecosystem



2019 Request from IGBC Chair

Mortality Reduction Recommendations



3

COMPLETED STEP: Agency Recommendations

2019- Reported to YES and IGBC



4

NEXT STEP: Summarize Public Recommendations

2019- Cody, WY, Workshop




BACKGROUND

Interagency Tech Team: Priorities and Recommendations



Interagency Tech Team



Andrew Pils – Shoshone National Forest
Scott Becker – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Kevin Frey – Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Kerry Gunther – National Park Service
Pat Hnilicka – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Jeremy Nicholson – Idaho Fish & Game Department
Dan Thompson – Wyoming Game & Fish Department
Dan Tyers – U.S. Forest Service

Key Points to Consider

GYE Grizzly Population:

- Mortalities below thresholds
- More bears in more places
- Inevitable increase in conflicts
- Goal: DMA – mortality within thresholds
GYE – minimize conflicts

Current Efforts to Consider

Many on-going programs:

- Information & Education
- Attractant storage
- Livestock management
- Regulations
- Bear Spray
- Conflict management

Prior Work

- 2009
 - 33 action items -> 11
- 2019
 - 11 action items -> 5



YES Priorities

1. Backcountry and hunting related conflicts
2. Front country conflicts and community planning
3. Efficacy of information and education
4. Livestock conflicts and producer outreach
5. Community outreach in range expansion areas



11 NEXT STEP: Summarize Public Response to 5 Priorities

Cody WY,
10/31/19



Priority 1:

Backcountry & Hunting Related Conflicts



Public Recommendations (15 comments):

- Update needed— new/safer hunting practices
- Modernize I&E
- Standardize and simplify signs
- Provide backcountry attractant storage
- Encourage permittee electric fence use
- Bear spray
- Target out-of-state and atypical users

Priority 2:

Front Country Conflicts and Community Planning



15

Public Recommendations (8 comments):

Develop specific programs for:

- Municipalities and counties
 - Same topics retooled for new audience



Priority 3:

Efficacy of Information & Education



Public Recommendations (many to 3):

- Is this working? How do we know?
- Funding: Used well? Need more! Where?
- Modernize, standardize = IGBC?




Priority 4:

Livestock Conflicts and Producer Outreach



Public Recommendations (16 comments):

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- Emphasize prevention vs. reaction
 - Credible partnerships with producers
 - Enlist producers to be messengers and allies
 - Be practical
 - Ranches = wildlife habitat

Priority 5:

Community Outreach in Range Expansion Areas



Public Recommendations (9 comments):

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- Be strategic! – Get ahead of this
 - Proactive response to infrastructure needs
 - High quality relevant I&E
 - Consistency among agencies
 - Centralized leadership
 - Solid partners

FUTURE STEPS for YES

- **Prioritize**
- **Actions**
- **Partners**
- **Funding**

IGBC Report



Questions?

