

# Wyoming Game and Fish Department Grizzly Bear Conflict Resolution Update



Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Large Carnivore Section





# Role of Wyoming Game and Fish

- Member of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team
  - Actively monitoring grizzly bear population and rectifying conflict situations since the 1970s
  - Increased role to analyze and publish data on current population demographics
- **Responsible for ecosystem-wide monitoring and conflict management and resolution throughout Wyoming outside of NPS and Wind River Reservation**
  - This has been our role for more than 4 decades



# Grizzly Bear Conflict Resolution

- **Essential** component of large carnivore conservation and management
- Provide a timely response by trained professionals to deal with all forms of conflicts between grizzly bears and people
  - Personnel adopt a continuum of management responses to deal with conflict





# Grizzly Bear Conflict Resolution

- Recovery has changed the game → more unique challenges





# Grizzly Bear Management

- Nothing we do is mutually exclusive:
  - Monitoring and conflict resolution data used toward documentation of recovery and evaluation of GYE bears
  - Proactive efforts and educational programs within Bear Wise Wyoming are delivered by every member of the Large Carnivore Section throughout the state and local community, country, globe
  - **Team approach**, bolstered by public support



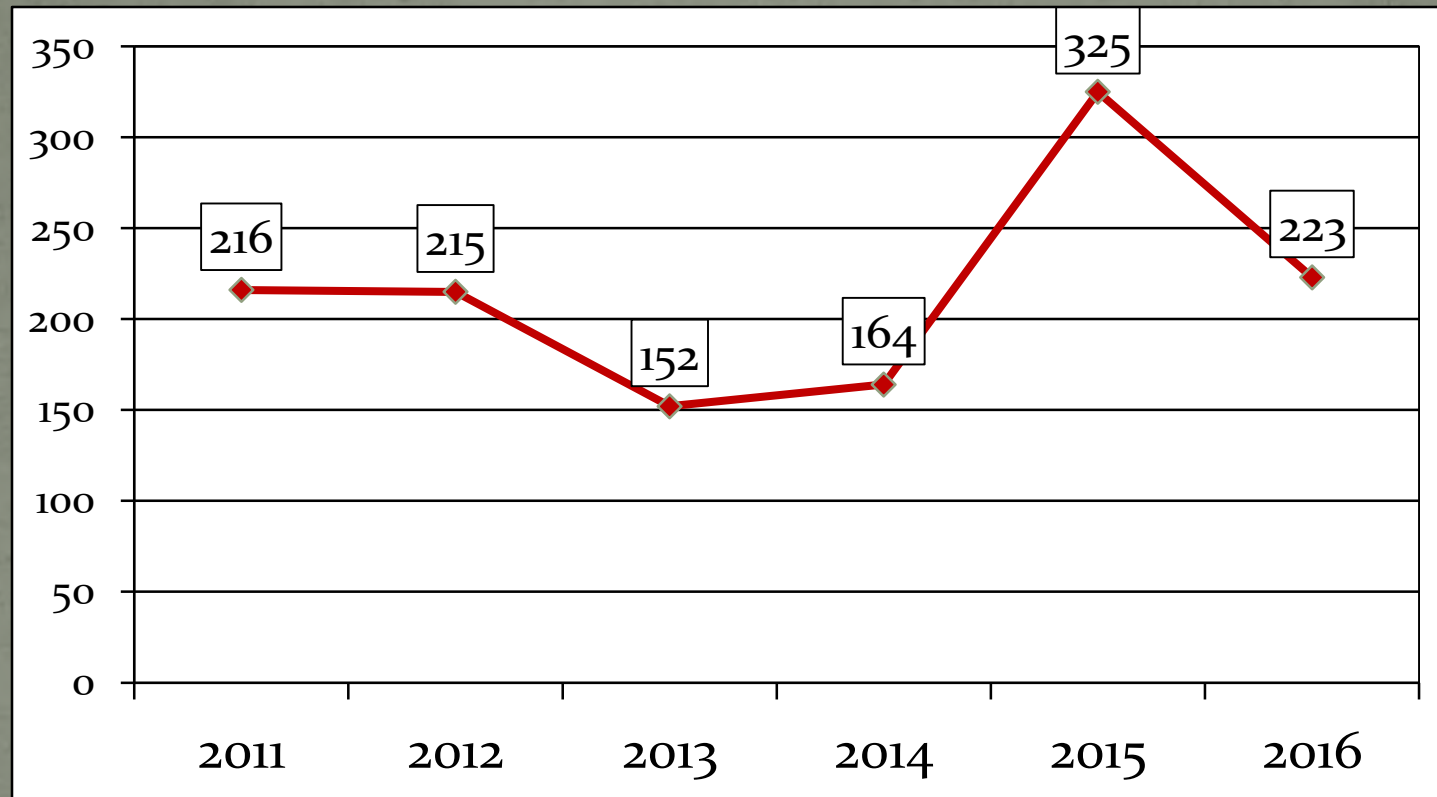


# 2015-2016 Update





# Annual Grizzly Bear/Human Conflicts





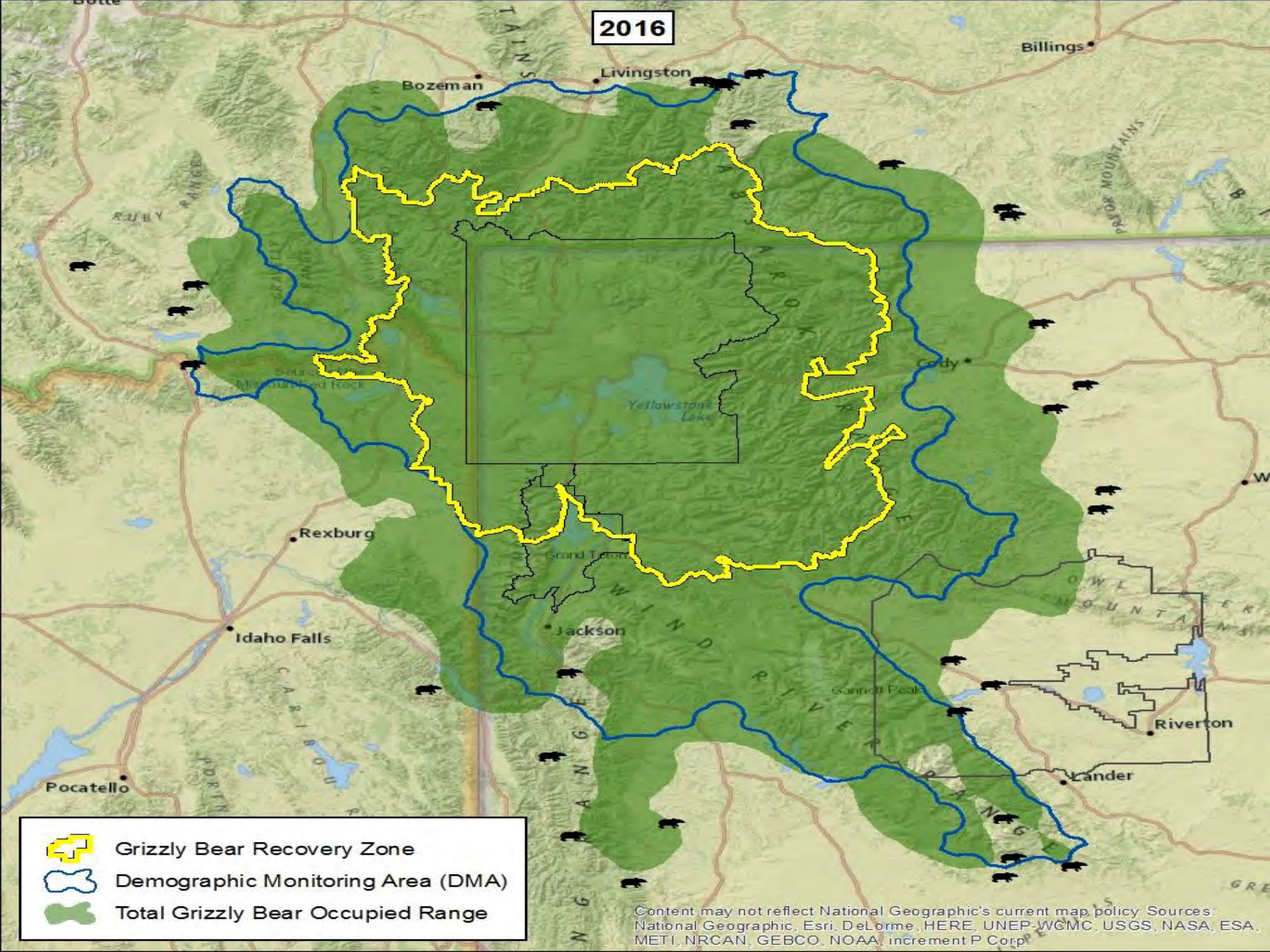
# Conflict Type/Breakdown 2015-2016

Conflict Type	2015	2016
Cattle	141 (43.4%)	122 (54.7%)
Garbage	87 (26.8%)	31 (13.9%)
Pet-Livestock-Birdfeed	38 (11.7%)	19 (8.5%)
Property Damage	22 (6.8%)	18 (8.1%)
Sheep	11 (3.4%)	5 (2.2%)
Animal Death/Injury	6(1.8%)	7 (3.1%)
Fruit Trees	6 (1.8%)	8 (3.6%)
Unsecured Attractant	5	1
Aggression Toward Humans	4	4
Poultry	3	2
Human Injury	1	4
Pet/Guard Animal	1	1
Other	0	1
Total	325	223





2016



Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone



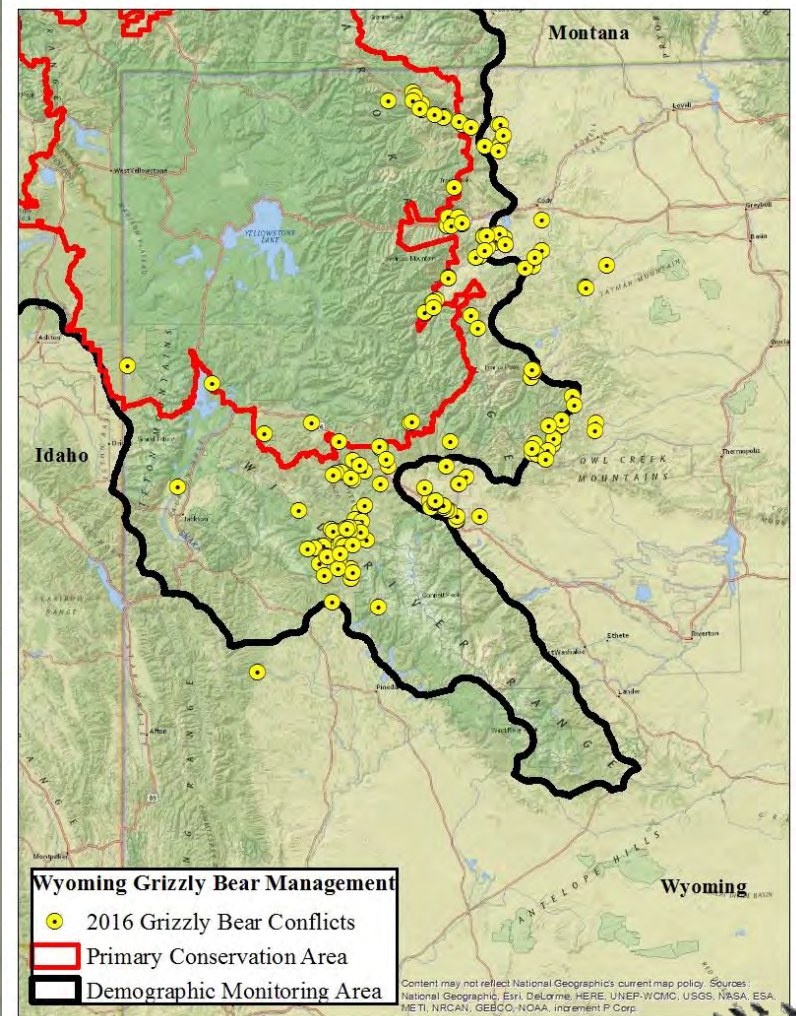
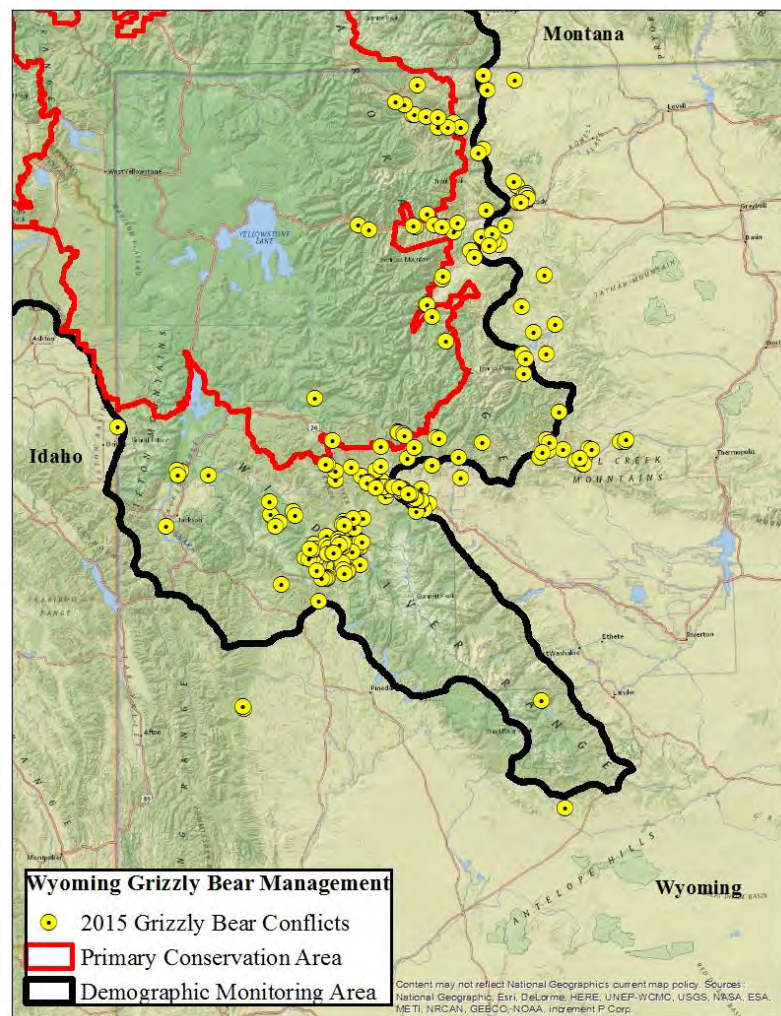
Demographic Monitoring Area (DMA)



Total Grizzly Bear Occupied Range

Content may not reflect National Geographic's current map policy. Sources: National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, HERE, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, increment P Corp.







# Expansion → Shift in Conflict Type

<b><u>Conflict Type (5 yr average)</u></b>	<b><u>2007-2011</u></b>	<b><u>2012-2016</u></b>
Property Damage	34	<b>13</b>
Livestock Conflict	71	<b>131</b>
Garbage	24	31
Grizzly Bear Deaths*	9	<b>5</b>
Human Injury/Death	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>



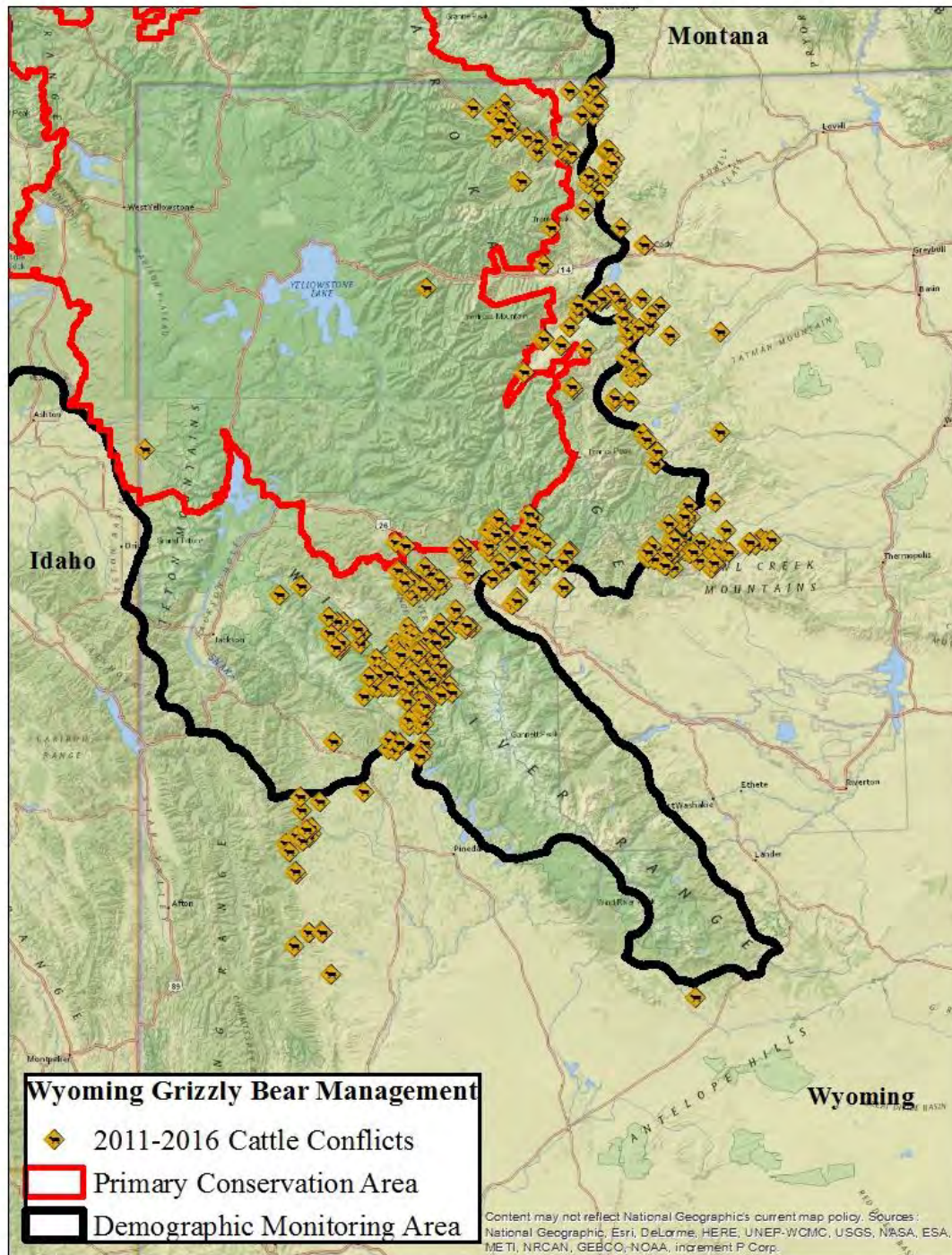














# WGFD Management Actions

- 2015: 51 management captures (45 bears)
  - 34 Relocations
  - 10 Removals in DMA (17 total)
- 2016: 40 management captures (39 bears)
  - 18 Relocations
  - 6 Removals in DMA (20 total)
  - 2 On-site releases



# GYE Mortalities - 2016

- PUTTING THINGS INTO CONTEXT
  - 37 grizzly bear mortalities in the DMA (65%)
    - 20 grizzly bear mortalities outside the DMA (35%)
  - 8 agency removals in the DMA
    - 6 removals related to repeat livestock depredation
    - 2 independent aged female mortalities in the DMA
  - 8 vehicle killed grizzly bears in the DMA





# Conflict Management Trends

- An expanding front line → larger footprint for response and education





# When the Dam Breaks

- Recovery Zone → Demographic Monitoring Area → Beyond
  - Things have definitely changed
  - Reality of bears in historic range and suitability





# Bear Wise Wyoming

- The foundation for grizzly bear management and maintaining grizzly bears on the landscape





# Bear Wise Wyoming

- The program was initiated as a localized community program
- Public ownership, sacrifice, and fortitude brought us to where we are today → expansion beyond the community to a landscape level approach



STAY SAFE AND  
KEEP BEARS WILD



**Thanks Wapiti residents  
for properly storing  
garbage, birdseed, and  
livestock feed.**

**It *All* Leads to One Moment.**



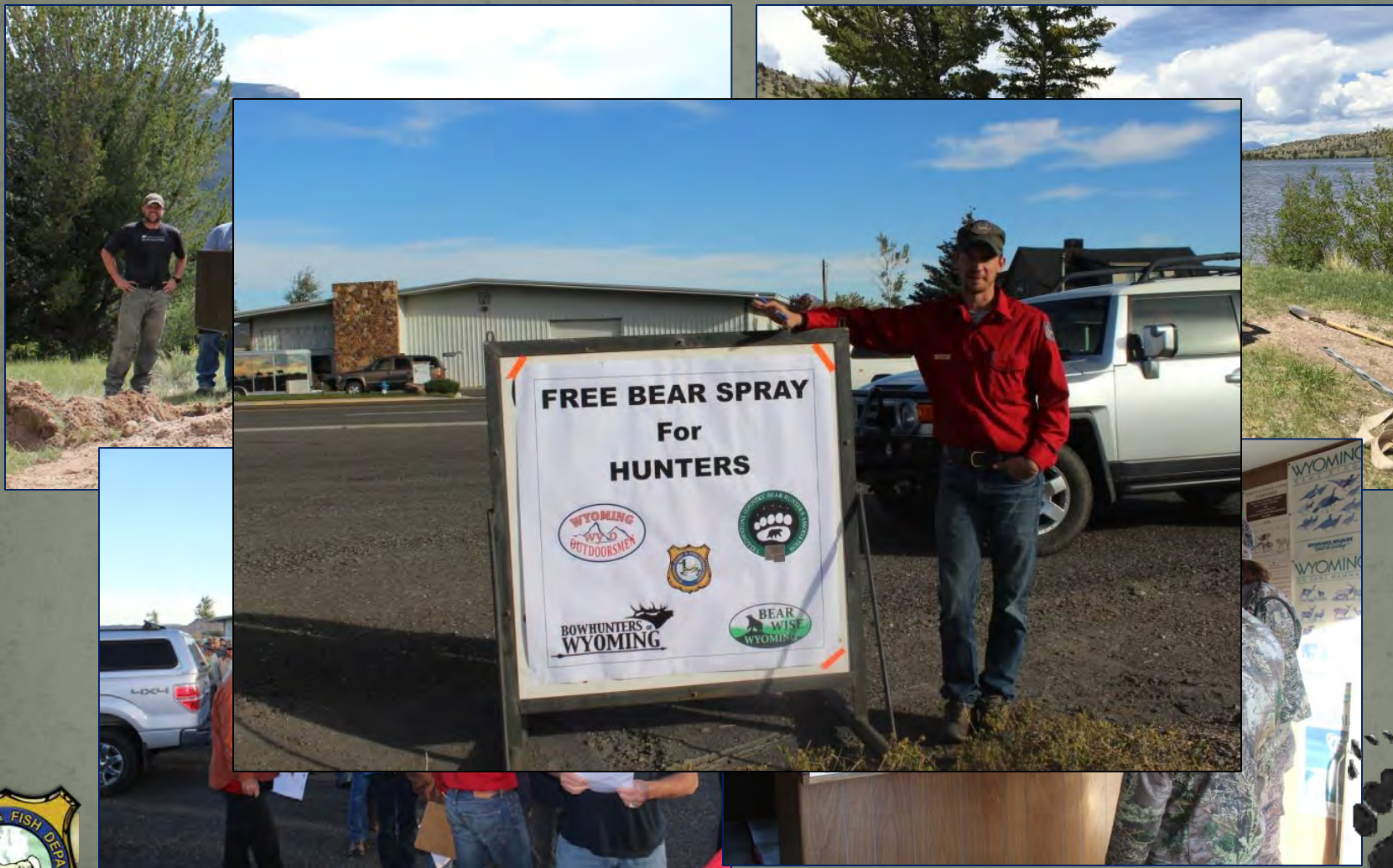


# Bear Wise Wyoming





# Teaming Up with NGO's





# Bear Wise and Enjoying the Outdoors

## HUNTING

## GAME RETRIEVAL AND HANDLING

## CAMPING

**C**amping in Bear Country When you are camping, keeping a clean camp is the key to human safety and is required on most U.S. Forest Service lands in northwest Wyoming. Bears have a highly evolved sense of smell and are strongly attracted to human food, garbage, livestock feed, and game meat. When a bear gains access to attractants in a camp, it is likely to become food-conditioned. Food-conditioned bears are less likely to avoid humans and can become destructive and even dangerous in their attempts to obtain human foods. A bear that has received a food reward from a camp will likely return or stay in the area, and may become a problem for other people.

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## HOW TO PREPARE YOUR CAMPS

*Introduction paragraph to this portion of the guide will go here. It will say a couple sentences about why this is important and reinforce something within the text blah.*

### Trailheads and corrals

- Store all attractants inside a **hard sided vehicle** or enclosed trailer. Truck toppers must fit tightly on the truck bed.
- **Coolers without locks** must be stored inside.
- All vehicle windows must be **rolled all the way up** if attractants are stored inside.
- All leftover livestock feed **must be cleaned out** of corrals.
- Carcasses or animal parts **may only be stored inside a hard sided vehicle** and must be at least 100 yards from a trail.

### Backcountry camps

- Store all attractants in **bear canister or bear box**, or hung **10 feet high, 4 feet out** from pole or tree and branches.
- **Lock and bag** coolers as well.
- Your sleeping area must be **at least 100 yards** from carcass or animal storage. Your food storage should also be **at least 100 yards** from your sleeping area.
- **Pack out all garbage** and leave camp cleaner than you found it.
- Reduce livestock spillage or oats and pellets by feeding from buckets, nose bags, or other containers. **Don't leave leftover feed out overnight.**

### Front country camps

- All attractants must be stored inside a **hard sided vehicle**, bear box, or hung from a game pole at least **10 feet above ground** and 4 feet from the vertical pole.
- Carcasses or animal parts may not be stored inside bear boxes and **must be stored at least 100 yards outside** of any campground. (Refer to carcass storage and disposal section).
- All cooking areas should be kept **free of grease** and food residue.
- All garbage **needs to be stored** as an attractant and packed out when leaving.

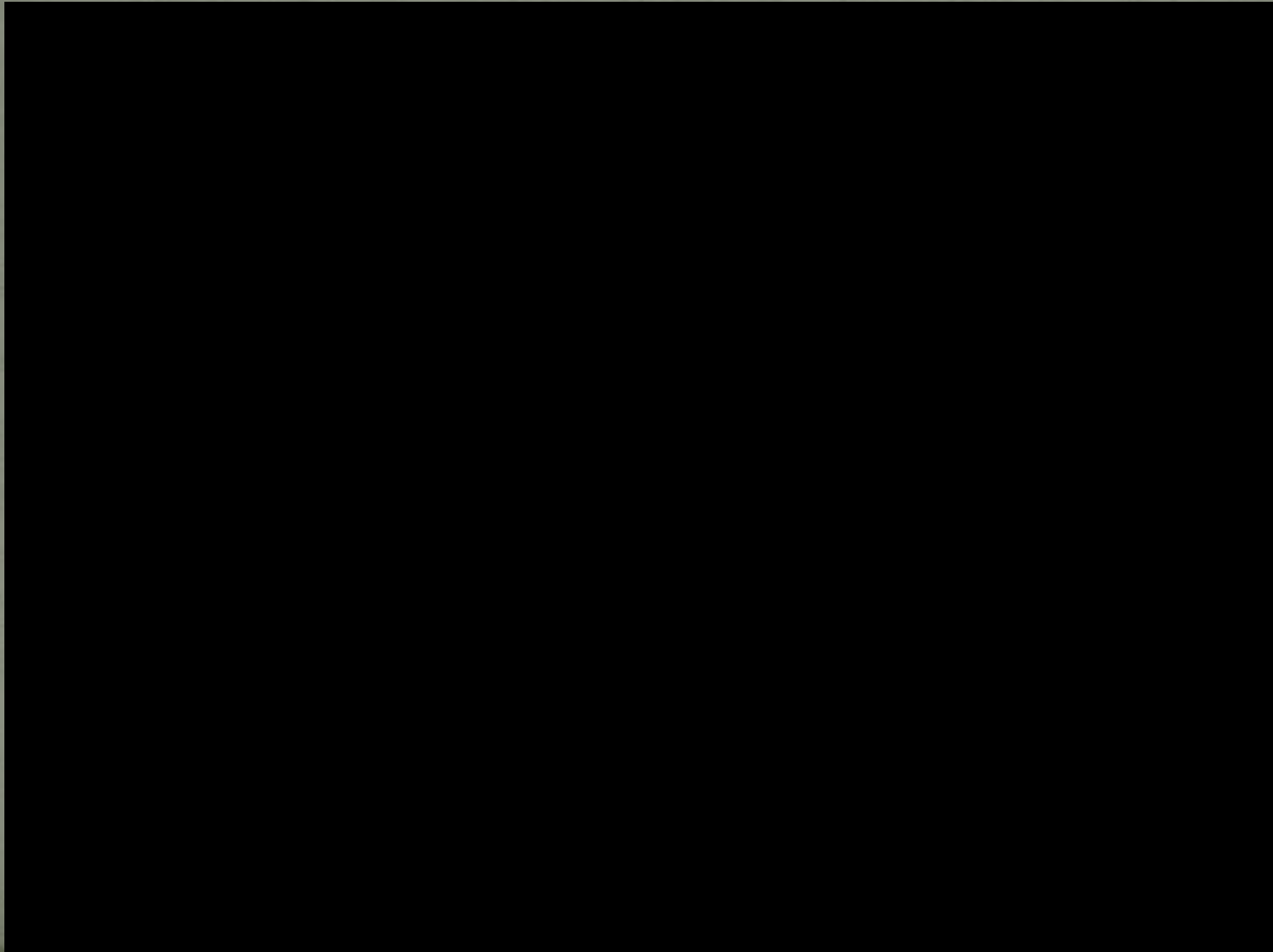
### What are attractants?

- When not in immediate use, all attractants must be stored inaccessible to bears. The following items are considered attractants:
  - Any food – including canned goods
  - Beverages and beverage containers – including unopened aluminum cans and plastic bottles
  - Coolers and Ice Chests
  - Game or Fish – any part of a carcass including gut pile, capes and skulls
  - Cosmetics and Toiletries (toothpaste, lotion, etc.)
  - Pet food and pet food bowls
  - Processed livestock feed
  - Any item with a food odor – including empty beer and soda cans, wrappers, bottles, etc.)
  - Trash





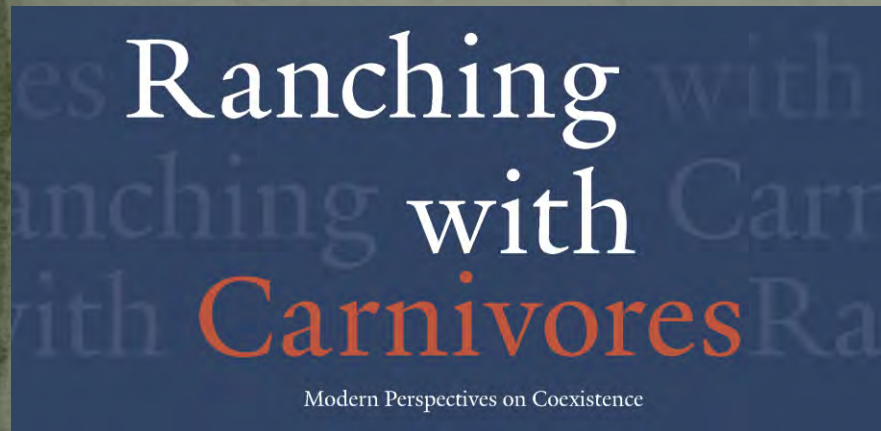
# Reaching Out Through New Avenues





# The “Other”

- Training and education on an intra/interagency level
- Educational workshops and lectures
- Academic research and curriculum





# Predator Attack Team

- Trained personnel to provide the appropriate response for wildlife attacks of humans
- Strategic, immediate team approach
- Communication and coordination vital





# Conclusions and Future

- Controversy and conflicts are inherent in a recovered grizzly bear population
- Expansion of grizzly bears beyond suitable habitat increases conflict potential – impedes success of recovery
- Maintaining a vigilant conflict resolution, monitoring and education program is vital to conserving GYE grizzly bears





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