

A draft report to the  
Yellowstone Ecosystem  
Subcommittee  
October 30, 2019

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

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## Key Points to Remember

- Mortalities are on average below thresholds
- As bear numbers increase & range expansion continues, conflicts & mortalities are expected to increase (especially outside DMA)
- Goal of this effort is to continue managing mortality within established thresholds inside the DMA & continue efforts to minimize conflicts throughout the GYE
- Report includes recommendations for reducing human-bear conflicts to address concerns other than just grizzly bear mortality

## Topic 1: Backcountry & Hunting Related Conflicts



## Current efforts



**Recommendation 1:** Continue training to outfitters and guides operating in grizzly bear country.



**Recommendation 2:** Agencies should continue to sponsor workshops to provide information on best practices for minimizing human-bear conflicts for different backcountry user groups.



**Recommendation 3:** Recognizing that backcountry use patterns in the GYE are changing, adapt messaging to different user groups on best practices for minimizing human-bear conflicts.





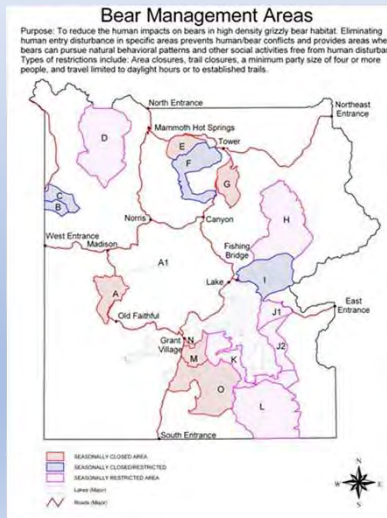
**Recommendation 4:** Continue to improve food & game carcass storage infrastructure in backcountry campsites.



**Recommendation 5:** Seek additional funding to continue or expand outreach programs such as bear spray giveaways.



## Recommendation 6: Re-evaluate YNP's Bear Management Areas, and evaluate the potential for implementing BMA's in GTNP & JODR.



## Topic 2: Front Country Conflicts and Community Planning



## Current Efforts



**Recommendation 1:** Continue to improve garbage storage infrastructure on private and public lands within the DMA.





## Recommendation 2: Purchase & install bear boxes at campsites in YNP & GTNP.



## Recommendation 3: Improve consistency & messaging of human-bear conflict signing on National Forest & Park lands.





**Recommendation 4:** Work with local communities to ensure enforcement of existing sanitation ordinances/regulations, or to enact new ones.



**Recommendation 5:** Continue education and electric fencing efforts to reduce orchard/small livestock conflicts on private lands.



**Recommendation 6:** Identify strategies and additional resources needed among state and federal agencies for collaboratively managing roadside bears outside National Parks.



**Recommendation 7:** Work with interested NGOs to increase funding.

Agency funds and capacity for conflict work are becoming strained

More resources are needed to implement of these preliminary recommendations

## Topic 3: Efficacy of Information & Education Efforts



### Past Efforts

- Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness User Surveys (1990's-2000's)
- GTNP: evaluation of signing & bear safety products (2011)
- YNP: public surveys to evaluate bear safety practices (reported since 2015)
- WGFD: public surveys at bear spray giveaway events



**Recommendation 1:** Work with agency or university social science experts to evaluate the most effective methods of outreach to people who live, work, and recreate in grizzly bear country.



#### Topic 4: Livestock conflicts and livestock producer outreach



## Current Efforts



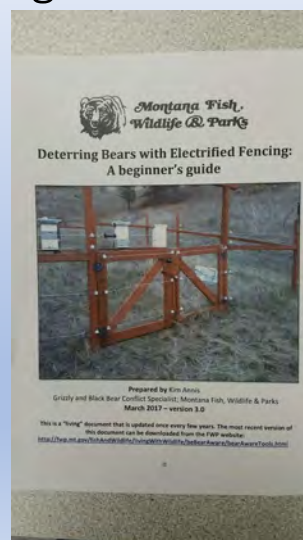
**Recommendation 1:** Engage with livestock producers that are new to managing livestock in areas occupied by grizzly bears.



**Recommendation 2:** Continue to work with livestock producers to evaluate depredation risk relative to various livestock management practices.



**Recommendation 3:** Continue to distribute information to livestock producers on effective management strategies for minimizing livestock conflicts.





## Topic 5: Targeted community outreach in grizzly bear range expansion areas



## Current Efforts



**Recommendation 1:** Improve signing related to bear-human conflict reduction practices on public lands in grizzly bear range expansion areas.



**Recommendation 2:** Work with permittees on National Forest lands in areas where grizzly bear occupancy is new or anticipated to increase awareness & incorporate bear-human conflict prevention measures into permits or operations.



Questions?

