

A photograph of a large brown bear standing on a rocky ledge, looking towards the left. Two smaller cubs are visible in the background, one to the left and one to the right of the adult bear. The background is a blurred natural landscape with rocks and sparse vegetation.

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

Meg Sommers

A draft report to the IGBC
December 16-18, 2019

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

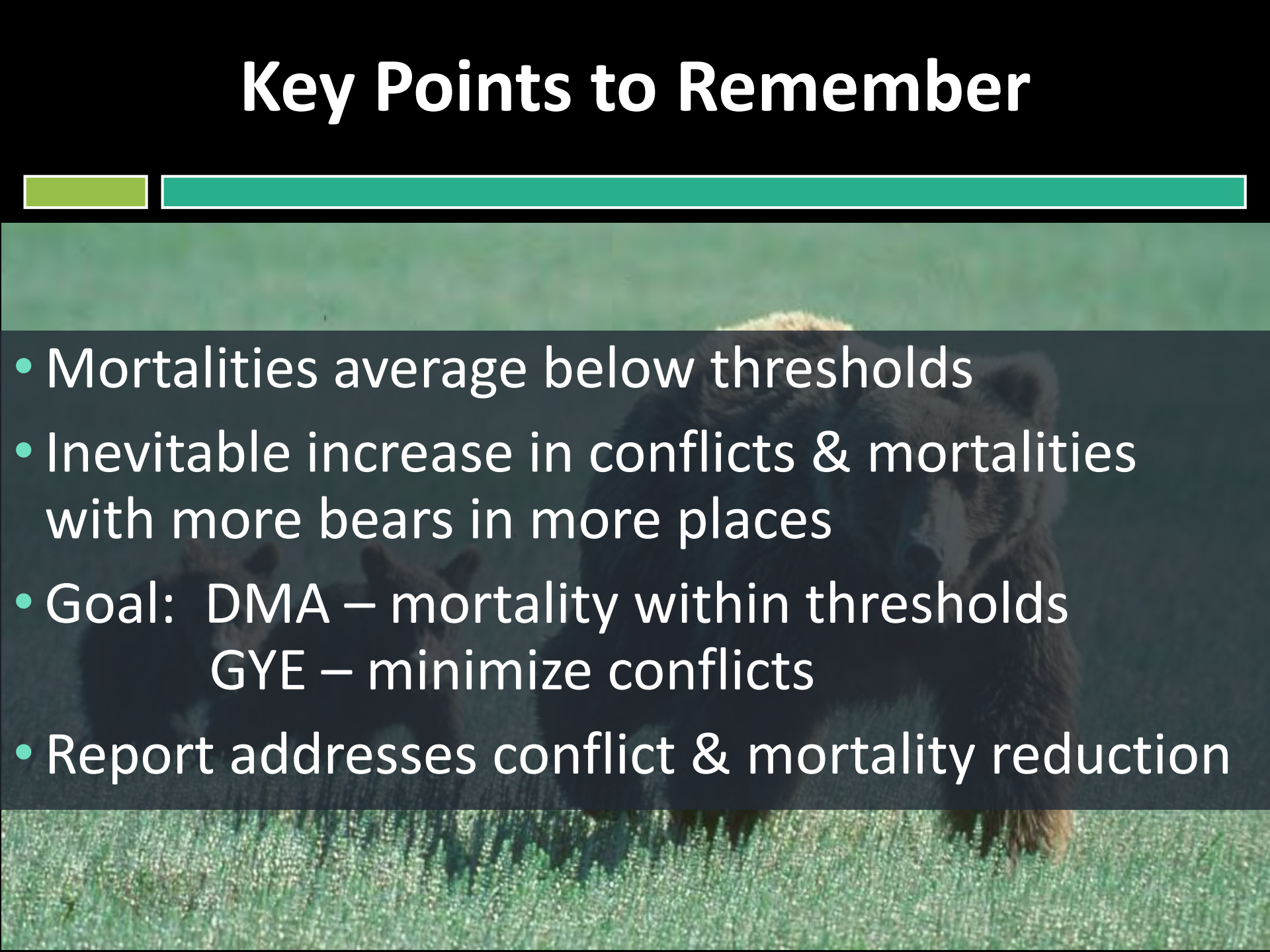
Pat Hnilicka – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Jeremy Nicholson – Idaho Fish & Game Department

Dan Thompson – Wyoming Game & Fish Department

Dan Tyers – U.S. Forest Service

Key Points to Remember

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- Mortalities average below thresholds
 - Inevitable increase in conflicts & mortalities with more bears in more places
 - Goal: DMA – mortality within thresholds
GYE – minimize conflicts
 - Report addresses conflict & mortality reduction

Current Efforts

Many on-going programs:

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

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



YES Conflict Workshop

Cody WY,
10/31/19



7) Use success stories to educate
(Tom Miner Basin)
(North Fork Bear Wise Community Program)
(WLA) - Ownership → subdivisions
8) Accountability → Sanitation/Dumps
Partners
- Western Landowner Alliance
- Outfitter/Guides
- Landowners/Ranchers → Builders
Resorts, Dude Ranches → Realtors
HOA, Landowners Association
Youth Advocacy Programs - Counties

Priority 1:

Backcountry & Hunting Related Conflicts



Recommendations:

- Training for outfitters and guides
- Workshops on minimizing human-bear conflicts
- Target new and unreached audiences
- Food and game carcass storage infrastructure in backcountry campsites
- Funding for outreach programs such as bear spray giveaways
- Re-evaluate NPS bear management area program

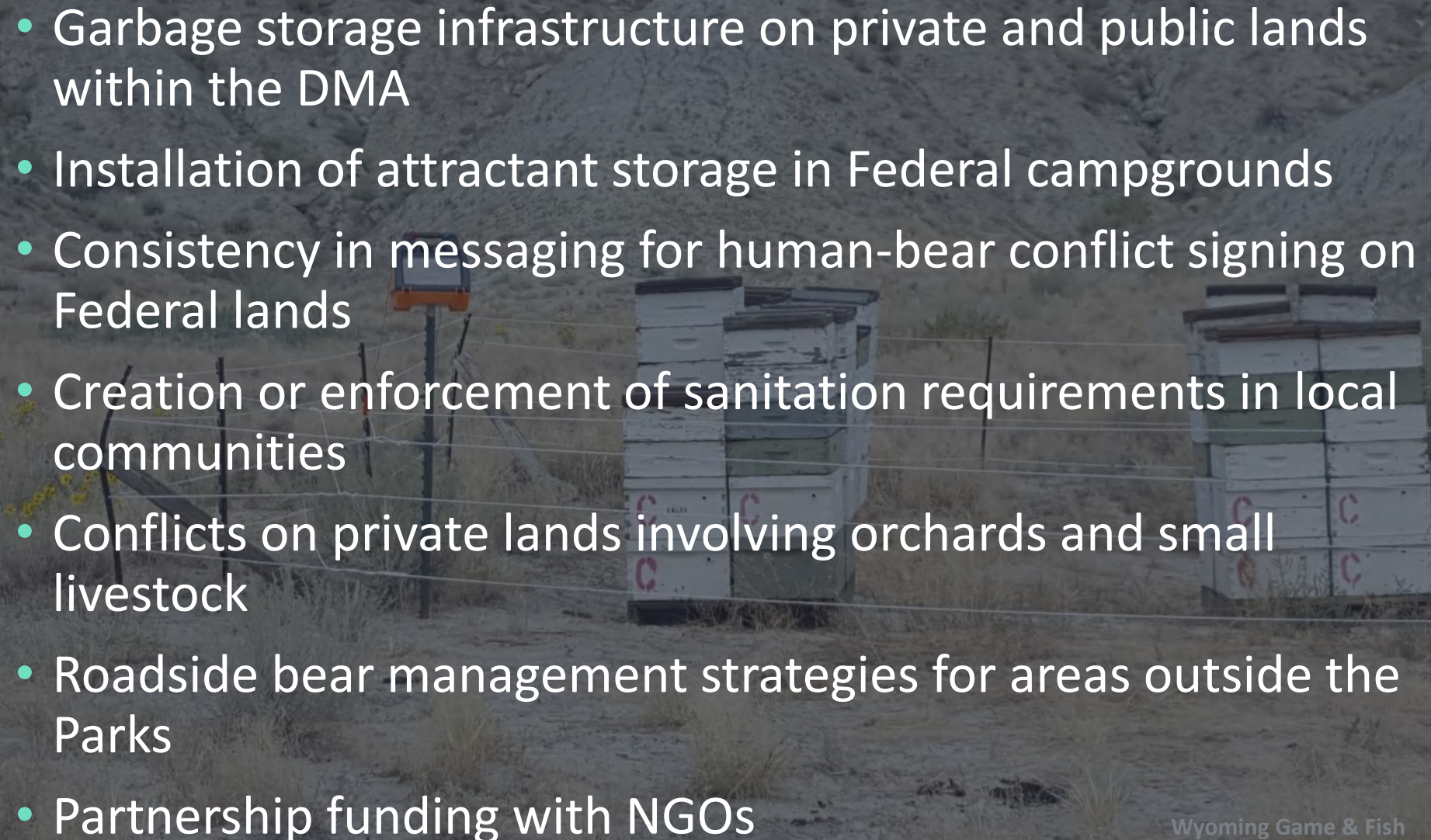
Priority 2:

Front Country Conflicts and Community Planning



D. Probasco

Recommendations:

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- Garbage storage infrastructure on private and public lands within the DMA
 - Installation of attractant storage in Federal campgrounds
 - Consistency in messaging for human-bear conflict signing on Federal lands
 - Creation or enforcement of sanitation requirements in local communities
 - Conflicts on private lands involving orchards and small livestock
 - Roadside bear management strategies for areas outside the Parks
 - Partnership funding with NGOs

Priority 3:

Efficacy of Information & Education



Recommendation:

- Use social science experts to determine effective outreach



L. Dickerson

Priority 4:

Livestock Conflicts and Producer Outreach



Recommendations:

- Engage new livestock producers
- Evaluate livestock management practices
- Communicate strategies to minimize livestock conflicts



Priority 5:



Community Outreach in Range Expansion Areas



Recommendations:

- Signing in grizzly bear range expansion areas
- Permittes on National Forest lands in areas where grizzly bear occupancy is new or anticipated



Questions?

