

# Bear Manager Update 2020



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

**Wesley Sarmento**  
**Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks**  
**Region 4**



# Prairie work area East of HWY 89

Entire Region 4 starting July 15<sup>th</sup>





# Human Safety Education and Outreach

4 presentations to over 128 people





# Human Safety Education and Outreach

Bear spray training to over 60 people

Gave away over 50 bear sprays





# Human Safety

## Installed six bear aware signs





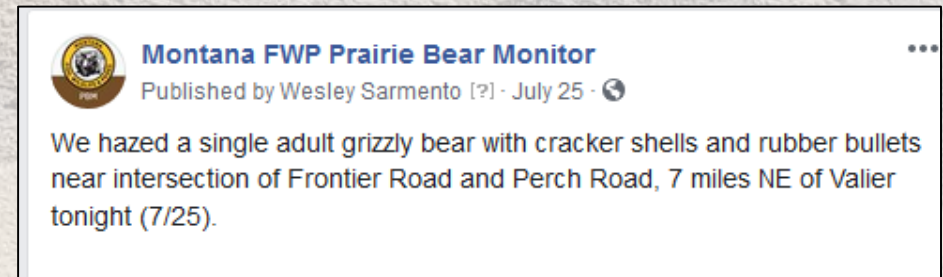
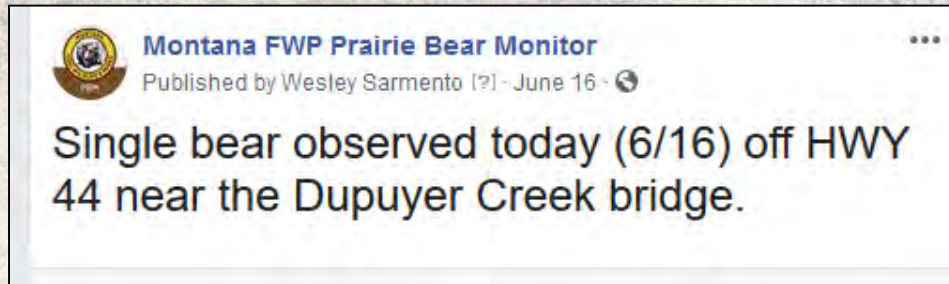
# Bear Alert Systems

Initiated alert systems over 63 times

Two new text alert systems (Kevin, Marias)

Created over 129 Facebook posts

Facebook page under internal review





# **Good Communication**

**Received over 700 calls for info or service**

**Quickly responded to every call**

**Over 80 Facebook conversations**

**Over 85 text message conversations**

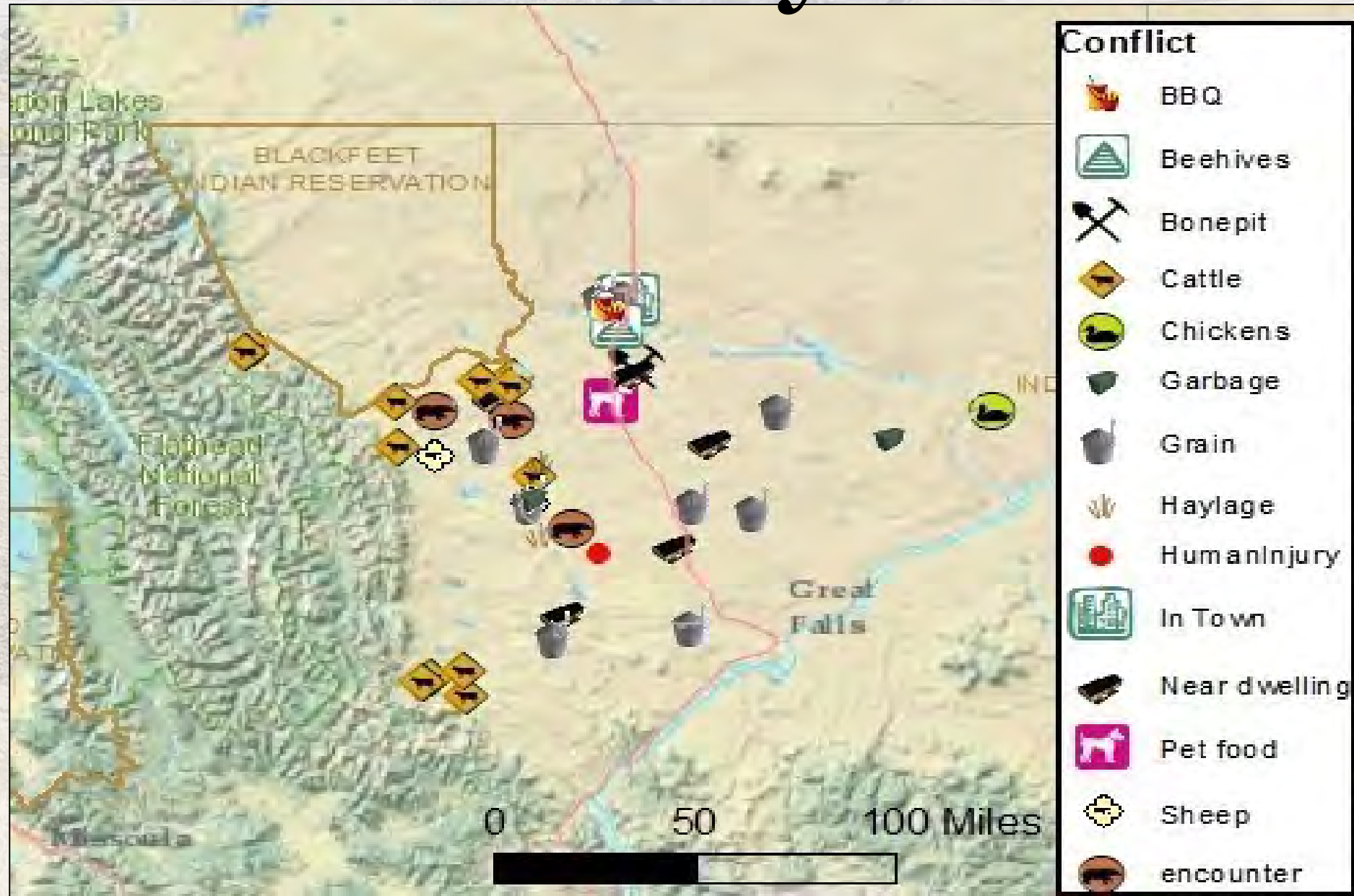


# 2020 Human-Grizzly Conflict Complaints

Conflict Complaint	Count
Cattle	15
Grain	10
Near dwelling	5
Encounter	5
Garbage	2
Sheep	2
Haylage	2
In Town	1
Beehives	1
Chickens	1
Human attack	1
Pet food	1
BBQ grill	1
Bonepit	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>



# 2020 Human-Grizzly Bear Conflicts





# Livestock Loss

Fourteen calves and one cow

Three sheep

Two chickens

One apiary





# Protecting Livestock

Installed seven electric fences to protect livestock





# Additional Agricultural Damage

One grain bag

One grain bin door

Three haylage bags





# Grain conflicts

Deployed over 67 scare devices

Electric fenced two old bins and one bag

Loaned out one paintball marker





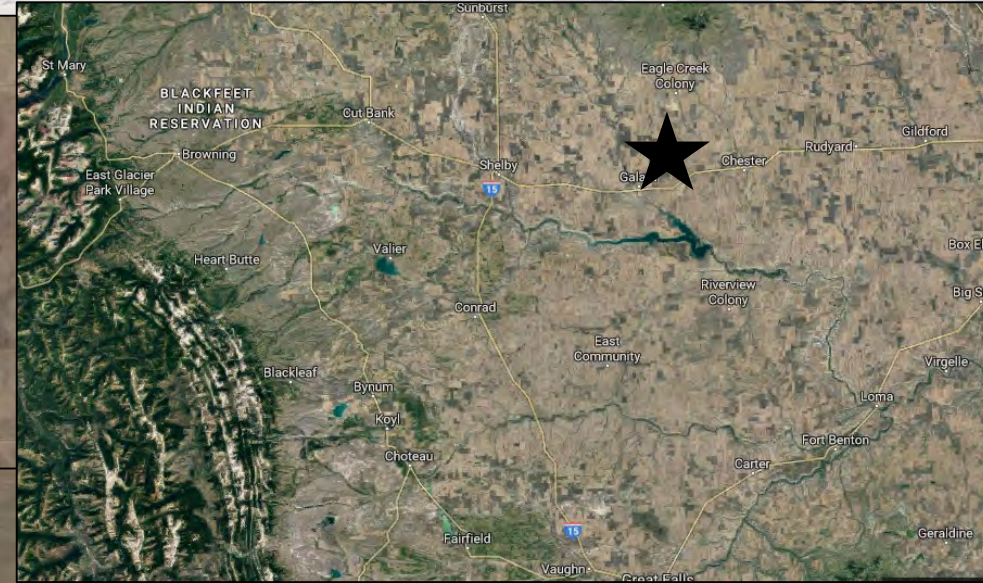
# Keeping bears away from people

## Removed 27,000 pounds of spilled grain





# Near Dwelling Conflicts



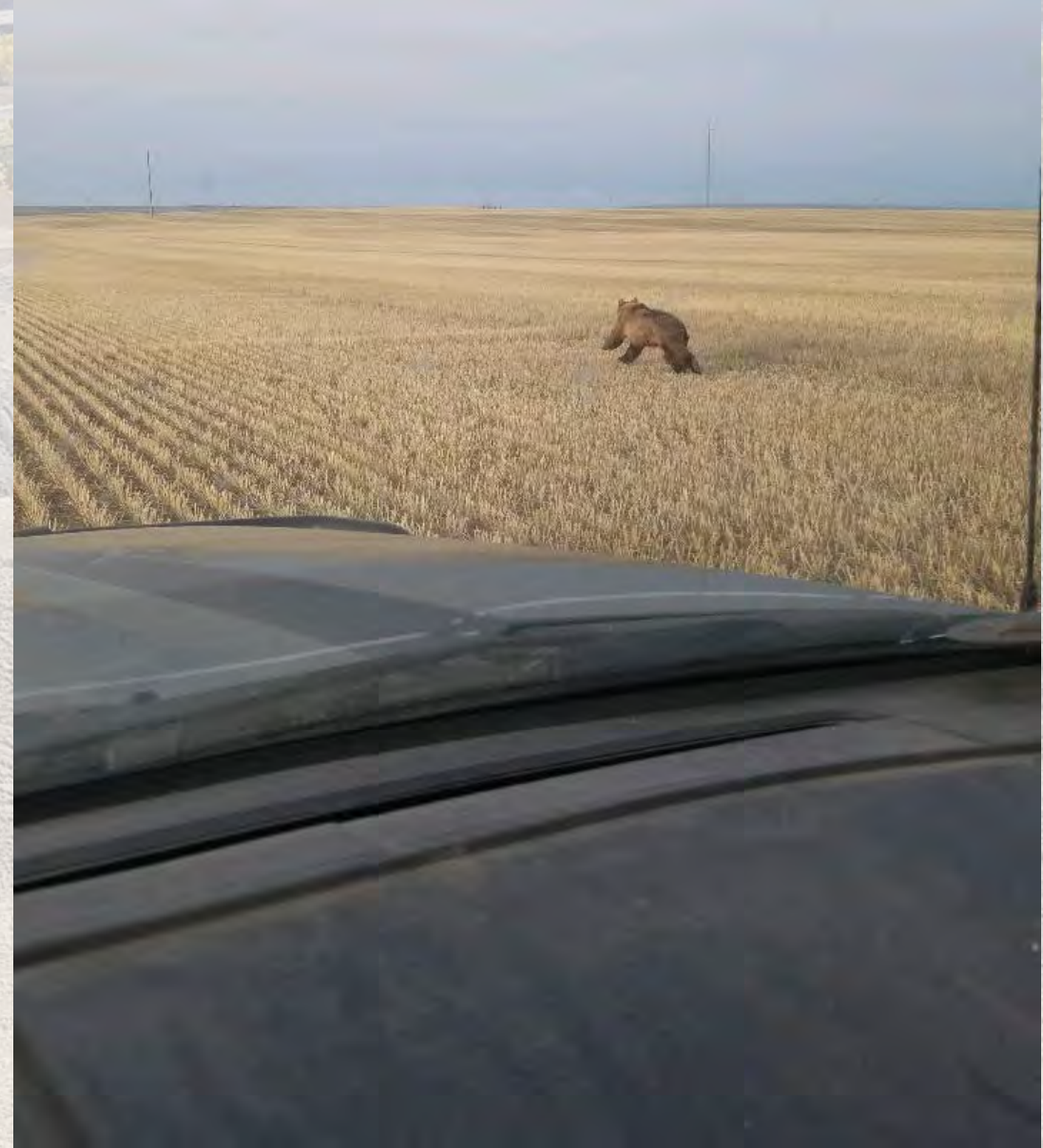


# Aggressive Hazing

>89 proactive patrols

Quick responses

Hazed 17 bears away





# Keeping bears away from people

Gave out 2 bear-proof garbage cans  
Installed 11 electric fences near homes





# Electric Fencing

Assisted with fence maintenance





# Removing Attractants



**Removed 23 dead animals (8 deer, 6 calves, 3 cows, 2 sheep, 4 horses)**

**Carcass driver removed 131 dead animals for around 30 producers (56 cows, 35 calves, 21 deer, 8 sheep, 6 lambs, 3 cow gut piles, and 2 horses)**



# Bear Encounters Increased

Five encounters total





# Bear Encounters Increased

## One attack resulting in human injury





# Grizzly Bear Mortalities

- 1) Subadult male euthanized SW of Shelby for repeated conflicts (6/18)
- 2) Subadult female euthanized W of Augusta for repeated livestock depredations (7/22)
- 3) Adult male killed in motor vehicle collision W of East Glacier (9/11)
- 4) Adult male killed in motor vehicle collision W of East Glacier (9/13)



# Captures

- 1) Adult female frequenting a residence SW of Shelby (6/7)
  - 2) Yearling male - dependent young
  - 3) Yearling female – dependent young
- 4) Subadult male SW of Shelby for multiple conflicts (6/18)
- 5) Adult female frequenting rail tracks near Summit (7/1)
- 6) Adult female on Teton River for proactive tracking (9/29)
- 7) Adult male eating grain in garage W of Pendroy (10/13)
- 8) Adult male incidentally captured N of Choteau (10/21)







# Trapping

206 trap nights total

15 DNA samples obtained for bear ID





# Thanks

Sarah Zielke

Local communities and law enforcement

MT FWP wardens and biologists

USDA Wildlife Services

USFWS

Vital Ground

Defenders of Wildlife

Carcass driver

Western Bear Foundation

Montana Outdoor Legacy Foundation

NRDC

Rock Creek Airedales

Two Bear Air

