

REDUCING GRIZZLY BEAR MORTALITIES

2009-2019

10-YEAR REVISIT

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CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST





Reference Document:

Yellowstone Mortality and Conflicts Reduction Report

June 5, 2009

This is a report from the IGBST to the YGCC

2009



2009 Interagency Task Force

Response to high number of GYE grizzly bear mortalities in 2008



2009 Interagency Task Force

**Summarize and prioritize action items
to improve mortality reduction efforts**



2009 Interagency Task Force

Proposed Action Items

Addressed the following causes of mortality:

- Hunter conflict – related (21)
- Mistaken identification (4)
- Other causes (8)

33 Total



2009 Interagency Task Force

Reducing Bear – Human Conflicts

Prioritized:

- 11 of the 33 action items–
 - Highest probability of success and greatest need



2019



2019 YES

Return to 2009 Priority Items (11)

- How did we do?

- What next?





2019 YES



Follow-up assessment: 11 Priority Items

Categories:

- Successful (6)
- Mixed results (4)
- Not a priority? (1)

2019 YES

Successful

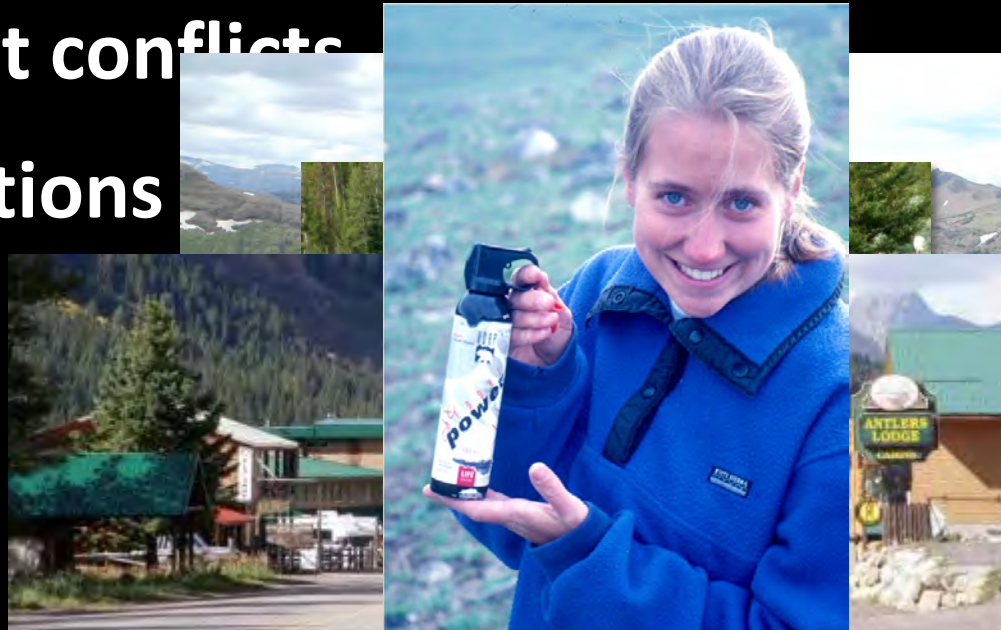
- **Encounter and mortality database**
- **Archery hunter education**
- **WBP/GB public education**
- **Emergency closures and restrictions**
- **Bear ID – Hunters**
- **Front country conflicts**



2019 YES

Mixed Results

- Increased agency presence
- Evaluate outreach and education
- Livestock allotment conflicts
- Subdivision regulations



2019 YES

Not a Priority?


- **Limit encounter mortalities –
Promote grizzly bear season**



Future



Forwarded – Mixed Results

- 
- A photograph of a large brown bear and two cubs in a natural, rocky, and brushy environment. The bear is in the foreground, looking towards the camera. Two cubs are behind it, one to the left and one to the right, both looking away from the camera.
- Increased agency focus
 - Evaluate outreach and education
 - Livestock allotment conflicts
 - Subdivision regulations
 - Others – committee input?

And revisit original list?

Next Steps?

Discussion tomorrow



Donna Sullenger, Shoshone NF

A person is silhouetted against a sunset sky, standing on the edge of a dark cliff. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a darker, muted purple and blue at the top. A thin, horizontal bar with three segments of different colors (dark green, light green, and grey) is positioned at the very top of the image.

2019 Assessment Summary

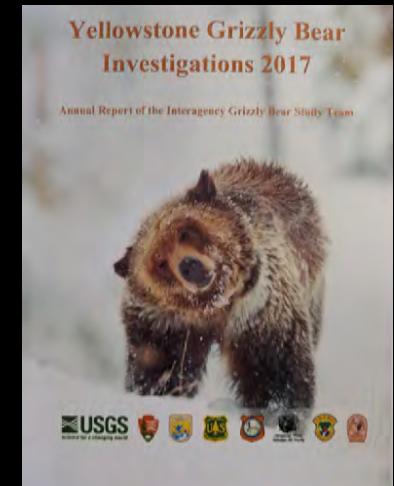
Details of 11 Priority Items:

For reference

Priority Item 1:

Encounter and mortality database

- IGBST – database of bear-human conflicts since 1992
- Database of grizzly bear mortality since 1975
- IGBST Annual Report



Priority Item 2:

Archery hunter education

MT, WY, ID States provide:

- **Safety info for hunting in bear country**
- **Bear spray training**
- **Free bear spray**
- **Local and online archery hunter safety courses**
 - **MT and ID require, WY encourages:**
 - **Archery hunter education to purchase hunting tag**



Priority Item 3: WBP/GB public education

- Research to understand WBP/grizzly bear connection
- Numerous publications
- I&E on recreating in WBP/grizzly bear country



Priority Item 4:

Emergency closures and restrictions

Primary tool by agency managers

- Area
- Time
- Party size
- Over-night use
- Roads, trails, rec facilities, front country, backcountry



Priority Item 5:

Increased agency presence

- Challenged by declining budgets
- No unique funding source to cover costs
- More effective patrols – Hunter use patterns



Priority Item 6:

Limit encounter mortalities – Promote grizzly bear season

- **Decrease mortalities to increase chance of GB hunting**
- **Result in lack of accurate bear mortality reporting?**
- **Instead – focus on:**
 - **Securing accurate population data**
 - **Build appropriate population models**
 - **Guide management actions**



Priority Item 7:

Bear ID – Hunters

- IGBC refers public to 7 websites covering bear ID
 - 3 include bear ID tests to obtain black bear license:
 - MT: Must pass
 - ID: Encouraged participation
 - WY: Encouraged participation



Priority Item 8:

Evaluate outreach and education

- Goal – good surveys/studies
 - Lacking long term/large scale
 - Most focus on bear spray carry
 - Need more data on response to message



Priority Item 9:

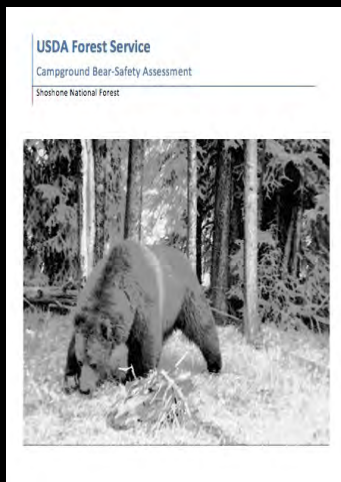
Front country conflicts

- USFS – GYE-wide campground infrastructure install

- 1:1 match with GYC – 5 year = \$1.5 million

- YNP and GTNP – Foundation programs

- States – County, private land owner collaborations



Priority Item 10:

Livestock allotment conflicts

- Practices to reduce grizzly-livestock conflicts

- Allotment management strategies

- Designing allotment management strategies

- Assessed relationships among:

- Allotment characteristics

- Depredation trends over time

(Smith et al)



Priority Item 11: Subdivision regulations

- Several templates for sanitation in bear habitat
 - WYGFD: general
 - Teton County, WY: specific
- Implementation mixed: case by case

