REDUCING GRIZZLY BEAR MORTALITIES
2009-2019
10-YEAR REVISIT

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Reference Document:

Yellowstone Mortality and Conflicts Reduction Report

June 5, 2009

This is a report from the IGBST to the YGCC
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
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
Return to 2009 Priority Items (11)

- How did we do?
- What next?
Follow-up assessment: 11 Priority Items

Categories:

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

2019 YES
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
Limit encounter mortalities – Promote grizzly bear season

2019 YES

Not a Priority?
Future
Forwarded – Mixed Results

- 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
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