Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Grizzly Bear Conflict Update 2022

Brian DeBolt
Large Carnivore Conflict Coordinator
Role of Wyoming Game and Fish

- Maintain viable populations of large carnivores on the landscape using a science based adaptive approach

- Include public desires and attitudes in setting harvest objectives and making management decisions

- Proactively manage to mitigate human/wildlife conflicts

- Provide information and education on large carnivore management and safety
All Connected

• Nothing we do is mutually exclusive:
  • Monitoring and conflict resolution data used to better understand and manage the species
  • Proactive efforts and educational programs within Bear Wise Wyoming
    • State, local, national and global reach
  • Team approach, bolstered by public support
Large Carnivore Management

- WIDE SPECTRUM of viewpoints with large carnivores; more polarity depending on species – but ALWAYS opinions
GYE Grizzly Bears

- Perhaps the most studied wildlife population on earth
- Long-term dataset, expertise and experience
- Epitomize conservation success story
Monitoring → Management

- Insight into yearling cattle depredation by large carnivores
Increasing Conflict Potential
Management of Large Carnivore Conflicts Requires a Significant Amount of Attention

Thanks to Everyone who Contributes!

- CLINT ATKINSON
- MIKE BOYCE
- LUKE ELLSBURY
- PHIL QUICK
- SCOTT STINGLEY
Human-Wildlife Conflicts

- Interactions between humans and wildlife that results in property damage, agriculture damage, or public safety issues (aggression, disease)

- Management of human-wildlife conflicts
  - Promotes tolerance and Department support
  - Human safety is paramount

Data includes the minimum of verified, legitimate conflicts
Sighting/Encounter

Conflict
Verified Conflicts by Species - 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Conflicts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grizzly Bear</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Bear</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolf</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Lion</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

407 Total
Verified Grizzly Bear Conflicts - 2022

Management Actions:
- Removals = 15 (9 Outside DMA)
- Relocations = 6

206 Total
“Hands-on” Management Actions – Grizzly Bears
Conflict Breakdown by Jurisdiction

- Private: 59%
- Bridger-Teton NF: 22%
- Shoshone NF: 11%
- Targhee NF: 59%
- Medicine Bow NF: 59%
- Bighorn NF: 59%
- BLM: 59%
- WGFD Lands: 59%
What Drives Annual Conflict Numbers?

Social Tolerance
Real and Perceived Threats

Abundance of Natural Foods
Field Response Program

- Conflict Management/Prevention
  - Information and Education
  - Securing Attractants
- Management of Individual Animals
  - Aversive Conditioning
  - Deterrence and Protection
  - Relocation
  - Removal
- Compensation Programs
Focus on Prevention

Electric Fences
Securing Garbage
Disruptive Stimuli

Non-lethal Wildlife Deterrent

#6610a
12 GA RUBBER SLUG (4yd Range)

Margo Supplies Co
Wildlife Management

Made in U.S.A.
For Felicia- let bears be bears

39,355 have signed. Let's get to 50,000!

At 50,000 signatures, this petition becomes one of the top signed on Change.org!

Sign this petition
Habitat Conservation Programs/Land Use Planning

- Managing areas utilized by humans to reduce the potential for conflicts
- Ranches and farms
- Planned development
Monetary compensation to reimburse livestock owners

- Payment made at market value
- Payment for killed, injured and missing livestock; guard dogs
  (Verified Damage Only)
When Other Options are Exhausted

- We attempt capture if the situation warrants
- We relocate an animal if applicable
- Some animals have to be removed from the population
Predator Attack Team (PAT)

- Trained personnel to provide a professional response for wildlife attacks of humans
- Team approach
False perceptions of State Management

Humans are loving animals to death quite literally
These proactive efforts and educational component serve as the foundation for grizzly bear management and maintaining large carnivores on the landscape.

Google “Bear Wise Wyoming”
Conflict Resolution and Bear Wise Wyoming

A Reminder... (we’ve been around for awhile)...

From the first Grizzly Bear Annual Job Completion Report by Game and Fish for 2011:

The Bear Wise Community Program is a proactive initiative that seeks to minimize human-bear conflict. In 2005, the Department began implementation of the Bear Wise Community Program. Although the program’s efforts were focused primarily in the Wapiti area, the Department initiated a smaller scale project in Teton County to address the increasing number of black and grizzly bear conflicts in the Jackson area. For the last 6 years, the Bear Wise Community Programs in both Cody and Jackson have deployed a multi-faceted education and outreach campaign in an effort to minimize human-bear conflicts and promote proper attractant management. Although a wide array of challenges remain and vary between communities, many accomplishments have been made and progress is expected to continue as Bear Wise efforts gain momentum.

waste management infrastructure.
Final Thoughts

• We are committed to maintaining and managing large carnivore populations on the landscape
  • Multi-layered approach to the ever-changing dynamics of wildlife in Wyoming

• Maintaining a vigilant conflict resolution, monitoring and outreach/education program is vital to carnivore management and human tolerance

• We will continue to answer the questions that are being asked to better understand large carnivores resulting in more effective management strategies
THANK YOU!