

# Bear Management Report 2023



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**Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks**  
**Region 4 – Conrad**



# Human Safety

## 24 education events to over 809 people





# Human Safety

**Bear spray training to over 380 people**  
**Gave away over 33 bear sprays**





# Human Safety

## Installed 9 bear aware signs





# Still building new ag. bear edu trailer





# Good Communication

Initiated over 452 bear aware alerts

3 call multiplier alerts for towns

>567 phone contacts

- 54 complaints
- 273 calls for info
- 145 calls for service
- 95 bear observation calls

Hundreds of in-person contacts

Quick responses

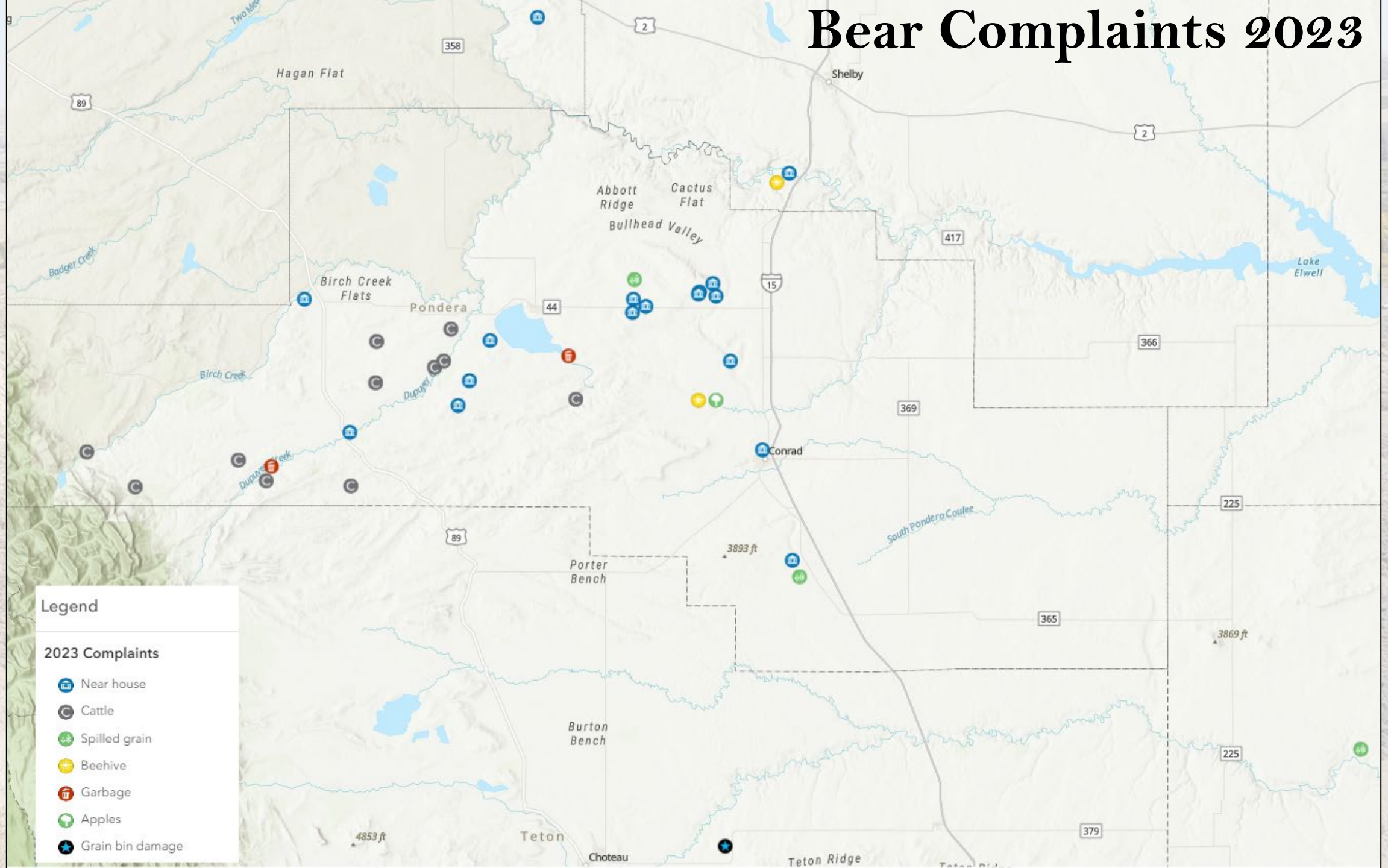


# 2023 Grizzly Bear Complaints – Conrad

Complaint	Count
Near house	17
Cattle	11
Spilled grain	3
Beehive	2
Garbage	2
Apples	1
Grain bin damage	1
Total	37



# Bear Complaints 2023





# Livestock Loss 2023

9 calves confirmed  
1 probable  
2 bee yards





# Protecting Livestock



Removed >54 dead animals  
Supervised carcass driver who removed  
>450 dead animals across R4



# Keeping bears away

Installed 14 e-fences

Weekly fence maintenance





# Keeping bears away from people

## Deployed over 64 scare devices





# Finished Scare Device Study

Deployed devices on 21 farms with unsecured attractants

Deterred bears completely at 11 farms

46% reduction in odds attractant accessed

Each additional device - additional 44% reduction

More effective in August, on treated grain

Less effective on groups of bears



# Keeping bears away from people

## 3 Grain bin doors





# Keeping bears away from people

## Removed >12,000 pounds of spilled grain





# Keeping bears away from people

## Finished Guard Dog Study

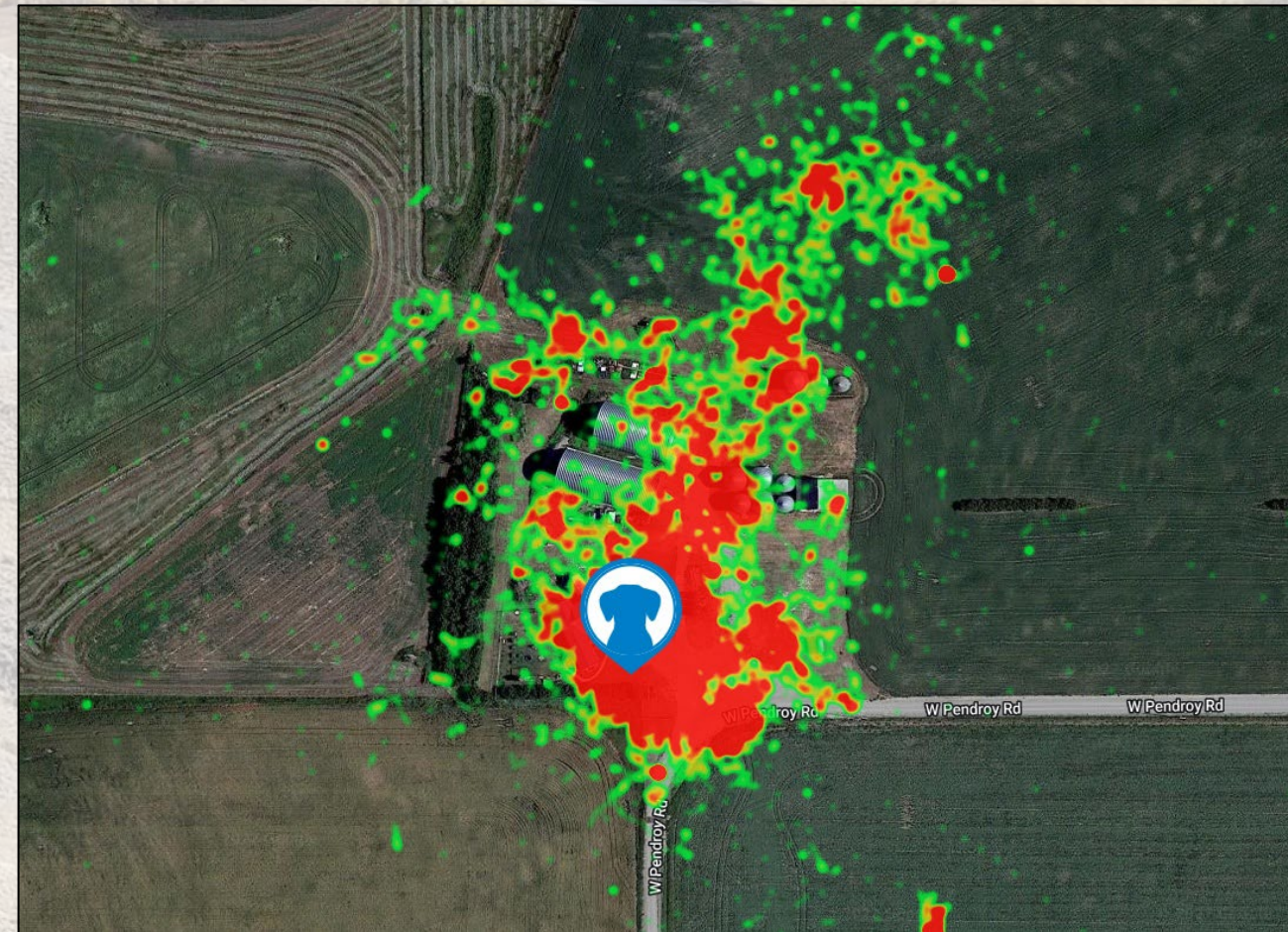
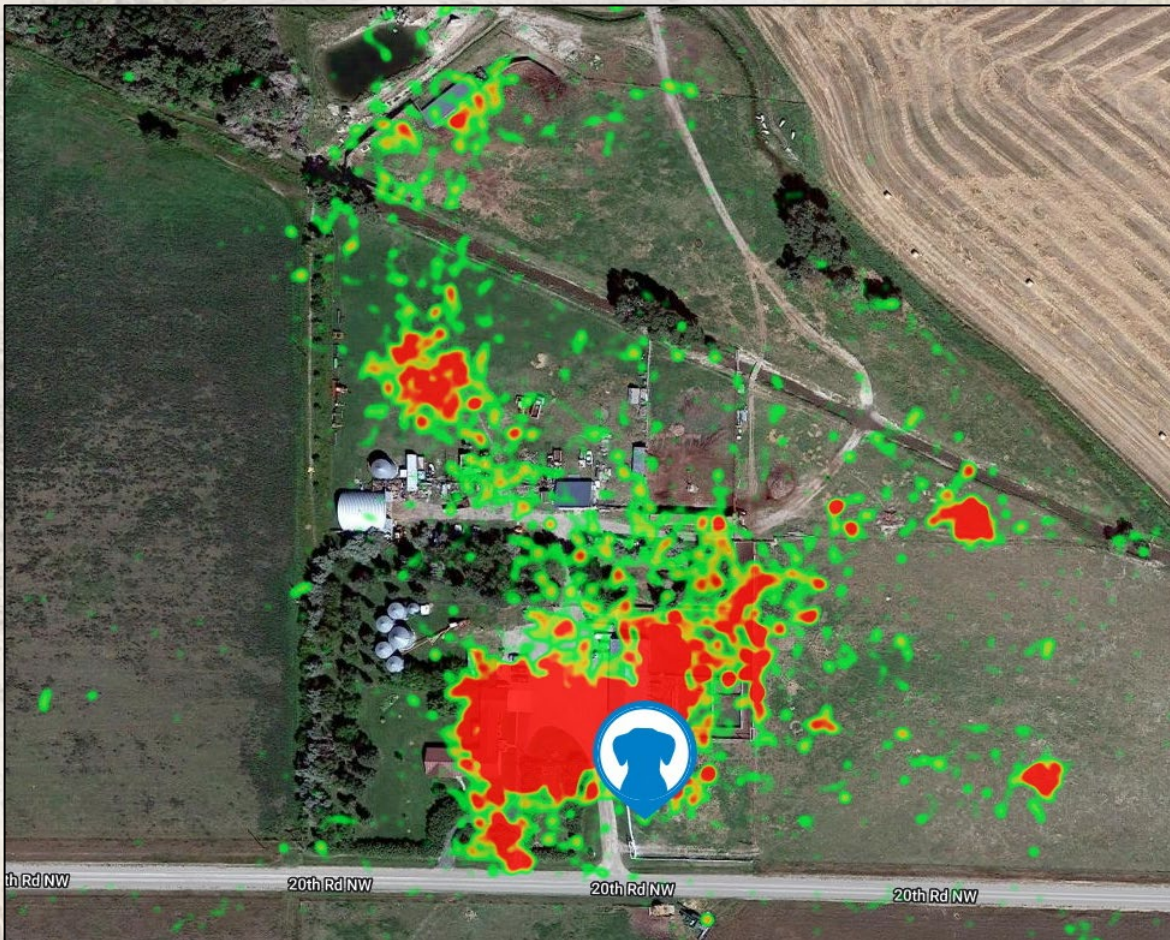
### Provided 4 guard dogs to 3 producers





# Keeping bears away from people

Guard dogs to keep bears away from homes





# Finished Guard Dog Study

58-fold fewer bear camera photos at farms w/ dogs

87% less bear collar points near farms after dogs

Farmers had positive experiences w/ dogs

Farmers w/ dogs would recommend to others



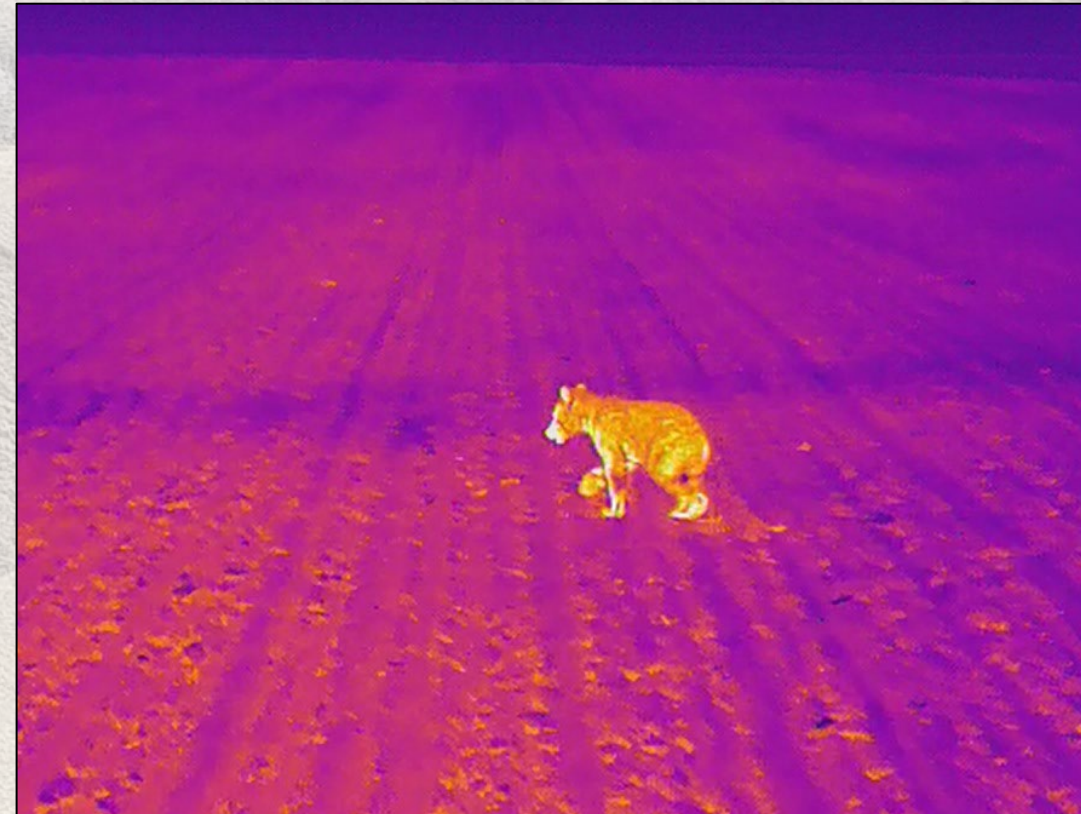
*In Revision (Biological Conservation)*



# Keeping bears away from people

Aggressively hazed bears on 55 occasions

39 cracker shells, 12 rubber slugs, drone





# Finished hazing methods study

Hazing stopped undesirable behavior

Aversive conditioning occurred over longer periods

Drones most successful, then projectiles, vehicles, dogs

Pursuit possibility increased 122 times for drones relative to using a vehicle

Flight locations were further from roads, closer to waterways



# Finished hazing methods study

Dogs had an 85% reduction in odds of successful hazing





# Capture Summary

- 1) In conjunction with USDA, an adult female bear collared for proactive monitoring in a conflict hotspot area (5/2).
- 2) In conjunction with USDA, an adult female bear collared for proactive monitoring in a conflict hotspot area (5/2).
- 3) In conjunction with USDA, an adult male bear collared for proactive monitoring in a conflict hotspot area (5/25).
- 4) In conjunction with USDA, an adult female bear was recaptured for the fourth time and refitted with a collar for proactive monitoring in a conflict hotspot area (6/1).
- 5) A yearling male bear was preemptively relocated for coming near homes and not responding to hazing (6/2).
- 6) A yearling male bear was preemptively relocated for coming near homes and not responding to hazing (7/11).
- 7) A yearling male bear was preemptively relocated for coming near homes and not responding to hazing (7/11).
- 8) A yearling female bear was preemptively relocated for coming near homes and not responding to hazing (7/11).





# Grizzly Bear Mortality Summary

- 1) In conjunction with USDA, a yearling female was euthanized for livestock and other complaints in the area, while relocation was unavailable due to snow (3/13).
- 2) Yearling female bear was found dead – under investigation (6/7).
- 3) Subadult female was found dead – under investigation (8/4).
- 4) Yearling male was euthanized due to habituation that was not being resolved with relocation and numerous hazing events (8/24).
- 5) Collared adult female was found dead – under investigation (10/6).



# THANK YOU!

**US Fish and Wildlife Service – Hilary, Ben, Jennifer, Amber, Rory, Morgan**

**FWP wardens, biologists, maintenance crew, managers, and support staff**

**NCDE team – Chad, Jamie, John, Cecily, Lori, Daniel, Brandon, Eric, Justine, Ali and others**

**USDA Wildlife Services – Skippy, Kurt, John, Kraig, Logan, Glenn**

**Call coordinators and event hosts**

**Vital Ground Foundation, Montana Outdoor Legacy Foundation, Safari Club International Foundation**

**Dr. Julie Young - Utah State University**

**United States Forest Service (Flathead and H-LC), Glacier National Park**

**Rock Creek Airedales**

**Local communities and law enforcement**

**Understanding public and proactive residents**