

Yellowstone National Park Human-Bear Conflict Report - 2023



NPS Photo: J. Hadley

Yellowstone National Park Visitation 2023

A photograph of a brown bear sitting in a shallow stream. The bear is looking towards the right of the frame. The water is dark and rippling. The background is a dense forest with tall trees and some fallen logs. The lighting is natural, suggesting daytime.

4,501,382 Recreational Visits

Photo: N. Nichols



Conflict Prevention – 2023

Photo: N. Nichols

YCC, MCC, GROUND-Work Management Staff Installed 185 Bear-proof Food Storage Lockers in 2023



1,509 of 1,914 (79%) Campsites Now Have Bear Boxes



Food Storage Pole ($n=260$)
Food Storage Locker ($n=40$)

A Food Storage Device is Provided at all 300 Backcountry Campsites

**Posted 11 areas with
Bear Warnings due to
Grizzly Activity in Visitor Use Areas**

WARNING



FREQUENTING AREA

Removal of this sign may result in INJURY to others
and is punishable by law

**THERE IS NO GUARANTEE OF YOUR SAFETY
WHILE HIKING OR CAMPING IN BEAR COUNTRY**

WARNING

**DUE TO BEAR DANGER
AREA BEYOND THIS SIGN**



**CLOSED
TO ALL TRAVEL**

Removal of this sign may result in
INJURY to others and is punishable by law.

Date posted: _____

P-1791

J. L. DARLING CORP.
2005 303-1714

**Posted 22 Trail/Area Closures
Due to Grizzly Activity
In Visitor Use Areas**



Carcass Management

A group of five brown bears are gathered in a grassy field. One bear is lying on the ground in the center, surrounded by four other bears. The bears are dark brown with lighter patches on their backs. The background is a mix of green grass and brown soil.

**Moved 111 Large Mammal Carcasses
From Visitor Use Areas in 2023**

A large brown bear is lying on its back on a dirt path, with its paws visible. A smaller brown bear is sitting on its chest, looking towards the camera. The scene is set in a natural, outdoor environment with grass and dirt.

58 Bison

24 Mule Deer

14 Elk

4 Pronghorn

3 Black Bear

3 Coyote

2 Bighorn Sheep

1 Grizzly Bear

1 Wolf

1 River Otter

Management Hazing: 29 incidents

Bean Bag Rounds

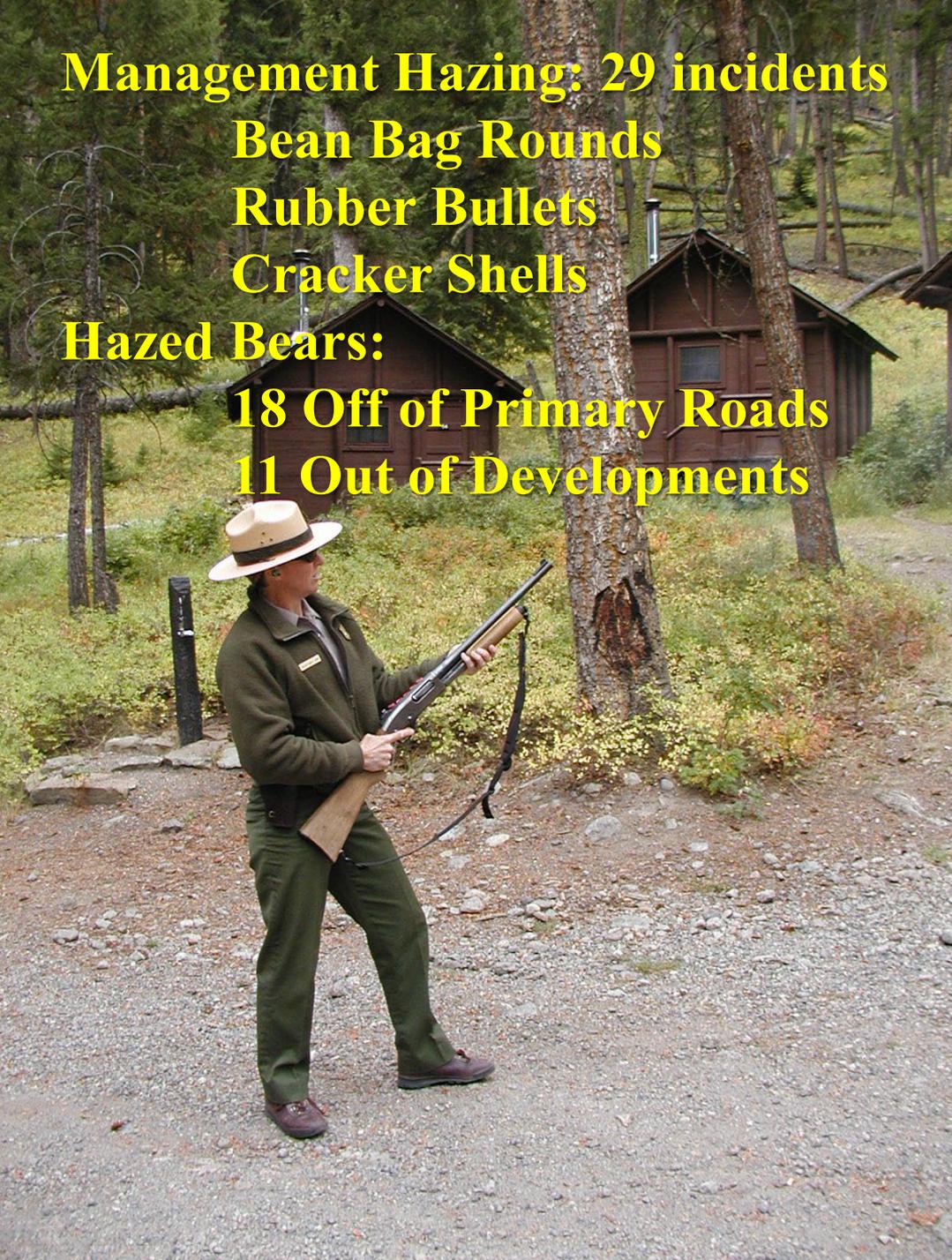
Rubber Bullets

Cracker Shells

Hazed Bears:

18 Off of Primary Roads

11 Out of Developments





Bear-jams Reported:

330 Grizzly Bear

598 Black Bear

2 Species Not Reported

Total: 930 Bear-jams

Park Staff Managed 223 of 330 (68%) Grizzly Bear-jams



No Park Staff Present at 107 (32%) of Bear-jams

598 Black Bear-jams

Park Staff Present at 527 (88%)



Staff Hours Managing Grizzly Bear-jams

Grizzly: 1,020 hours

Average: 4.6 Staff hours per grizzly jam

Black Bear: 1,182 hours

Average 2.2 staff hours per black bear jam



Total Staff Hours

Grizzly & Black Bears Combined : 2,203 staff hours

A photograph showing a person from behind, wearing a black jacket and a red scarf, standing in a snowy field. A brown bear is walking towards the person. The background consists of snow-covered trees and a fence.

**Need to Develop Better
Ways to Promote Proper
Bear Viewing Etiquette
Among Park Visitors**

**Is Your Photo
Worth Scaring a Cub?**



**Please Stand Back
At Least 100 Yards!**

Give Us Room To Live!



Human - Grizzly Bear Conflicts 2023

Property Damage No Food Reward: 1

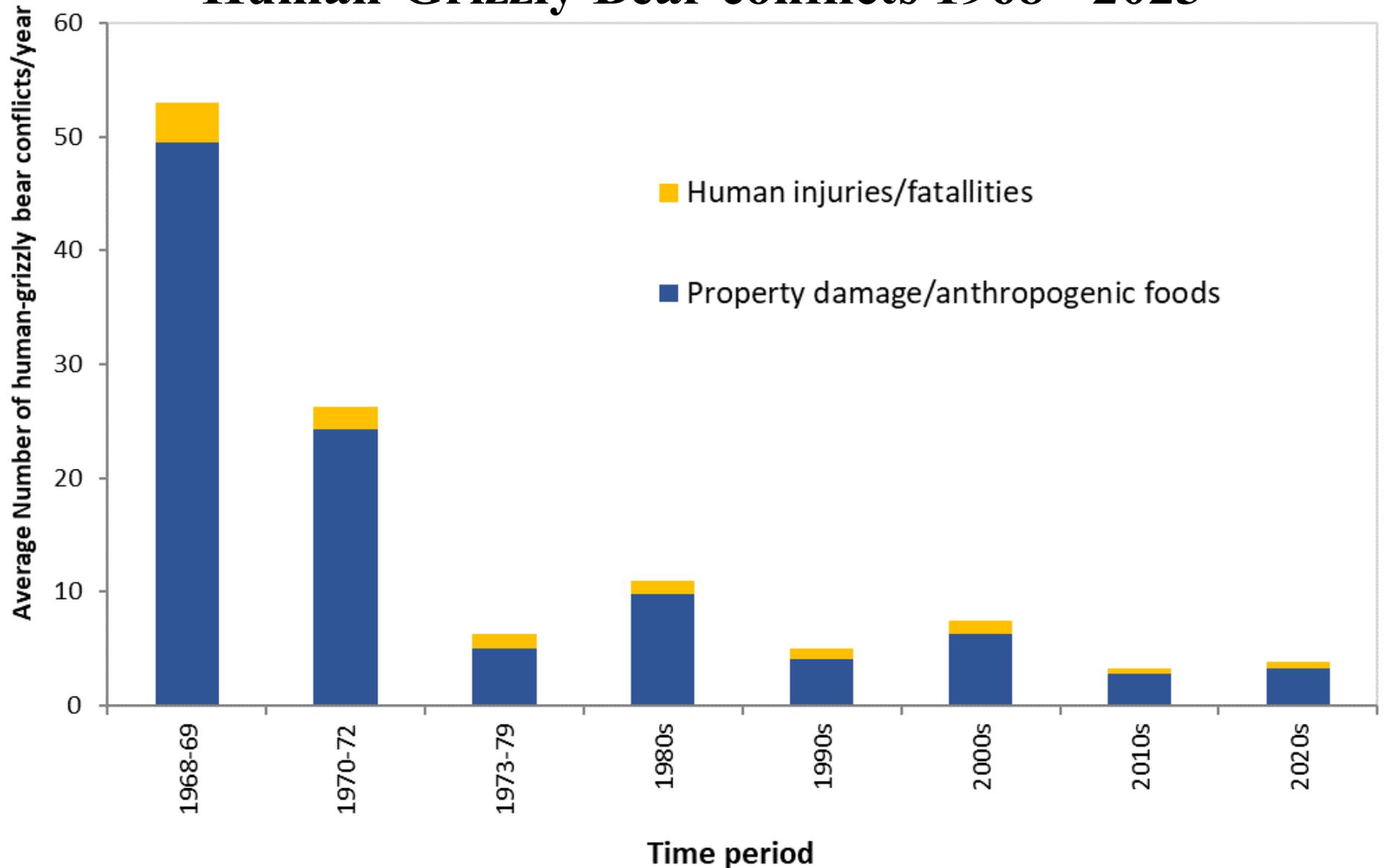
Human Food Obtained: 4

Human Injury: 0

Total Conflicts: 5



Human-Grizzly Bear conflicts 1968 - 2023



Management Capture & Relocation: 0



Management Removals of Conflict Bears: 0

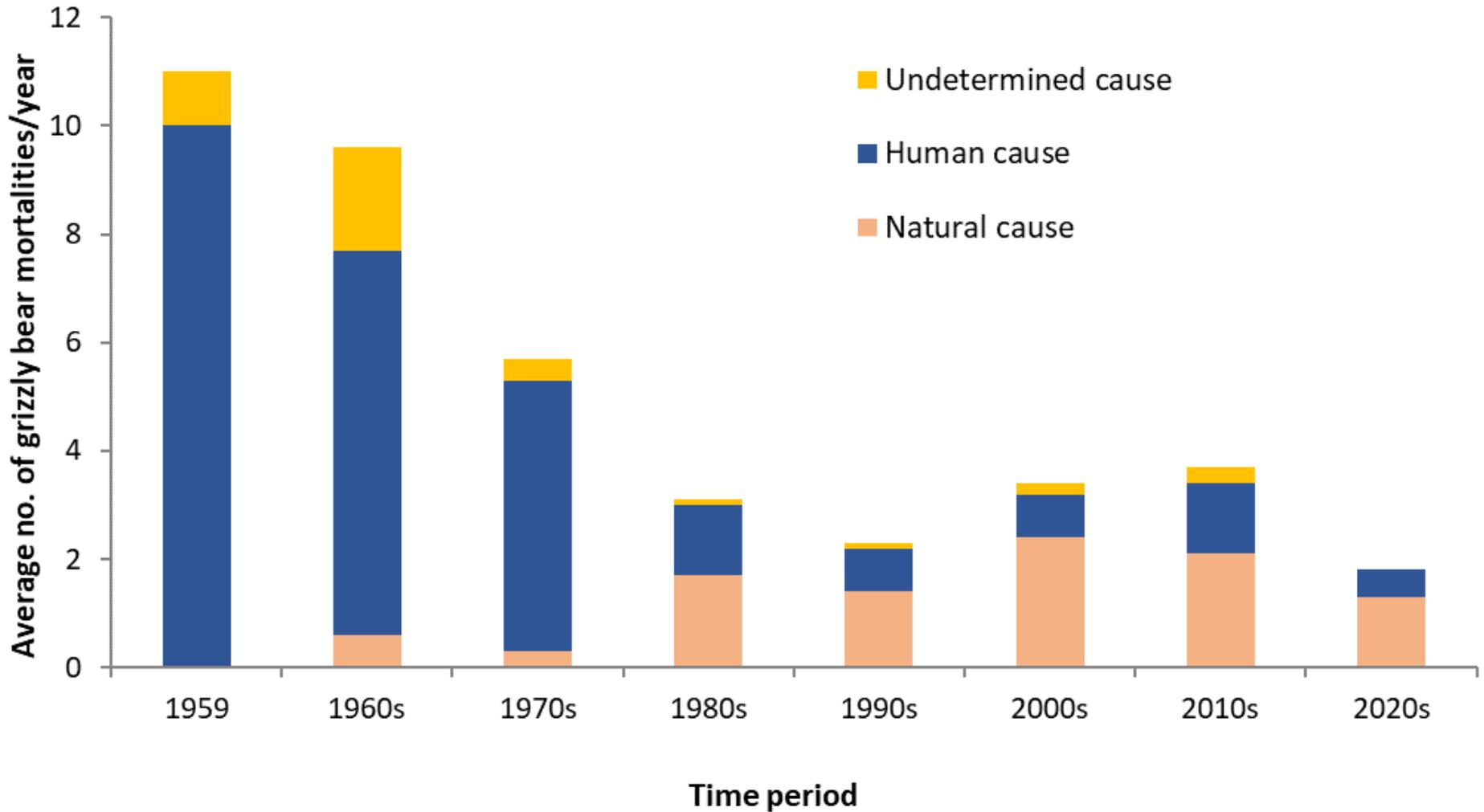


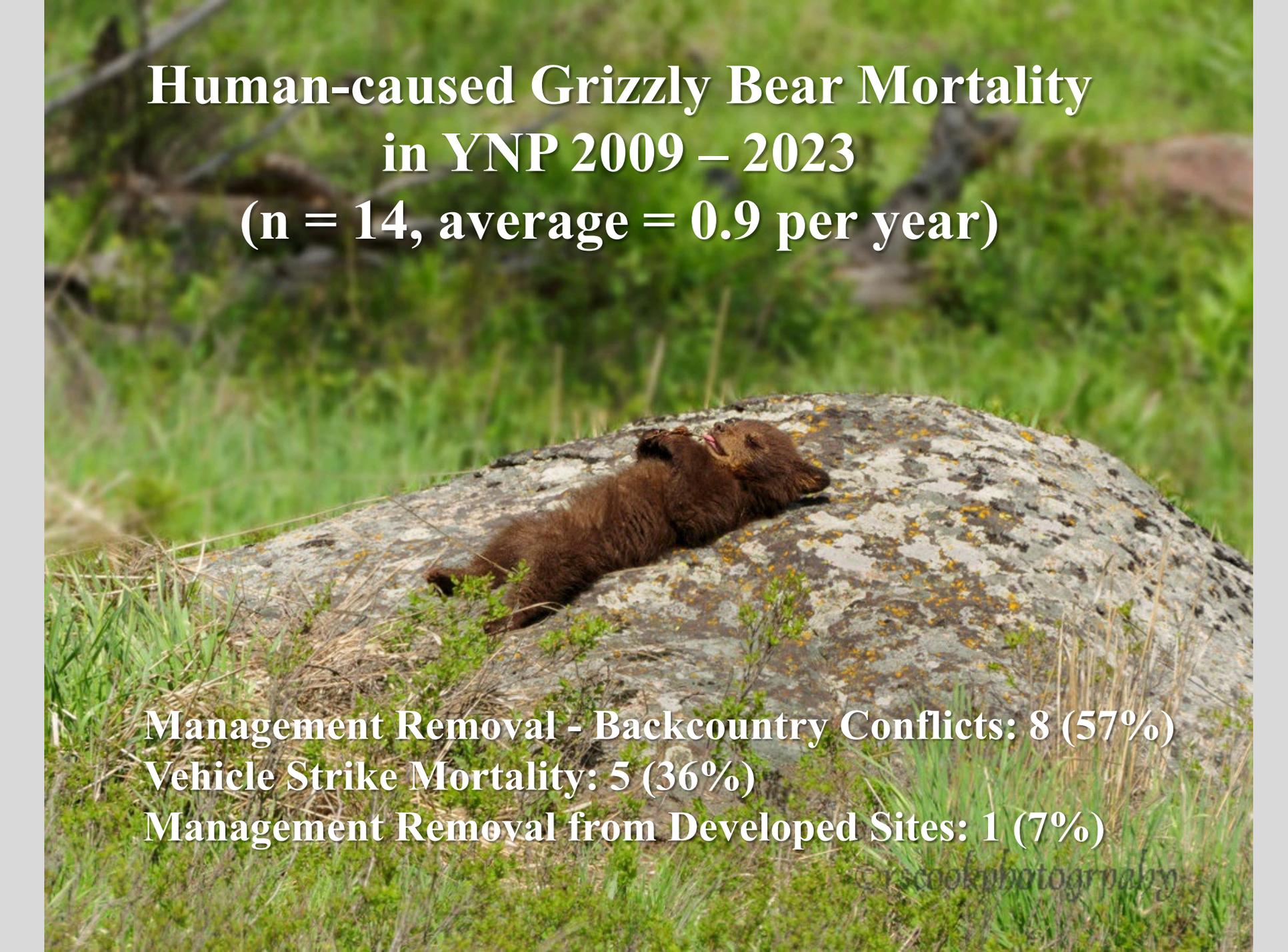


Vehicle Strike Mortality: 1



Grizzly Bear Mortality 1959 - 2023



A photograph of a brown bear cub lying on its back on a large, grey, mossy rock. The cub is looking towards the camera with its mouth slightly open. The background is a lush green field with some trees and a clear sky.

Human-caused Grizzly Bear Mortality in YNP 2009 – 2023 (n = 14, average = 0.9 per year)

Management Removal - Backcountry Conflicts: 8 (57%)
Vehicle Strike Mortality: 5 (36%)
Management Removal from Developed Sites: 1 (7%)



Grizzly Bear Reactions to Encounters 1991-2023

7,367 Encounters Reported

Flee: 34%

Neutral: 58%

Curious: 3%

Stress/Warning: 4%

Attack: <1%

YNP's First Grizzly Bear Sighting of 2024: March 3rd

A photograph of a grizzly bear in a snowy, open field. The bear is lying on its side, facing right, and is eating a large carcass. The carcass is partially covered in snow and has some red meat visible. The bear's fur is dark brown with a white patch on its chest. The background is a vast, flat, snow-covered landscape under a pale sky.

Be Safe!

Hike in Groups of 3 or More People

Make Noise to Forewarn Bears of Your Presence

Carry Bear Spray & Know How to Use it

Be Vigilant for Bears

**Mild Winter 2023/2024
Low Ungulate Winter-kill**



The End



NPS Photo: D. Schneider