

2024 Grizzly Bear Management Summary Southern Region 4



Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

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Jack Morawczynki Bear Management Technician

- First season with Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
- Fifth season working with human/carnivore conflict.
- Experienced in predator/livestock conflict



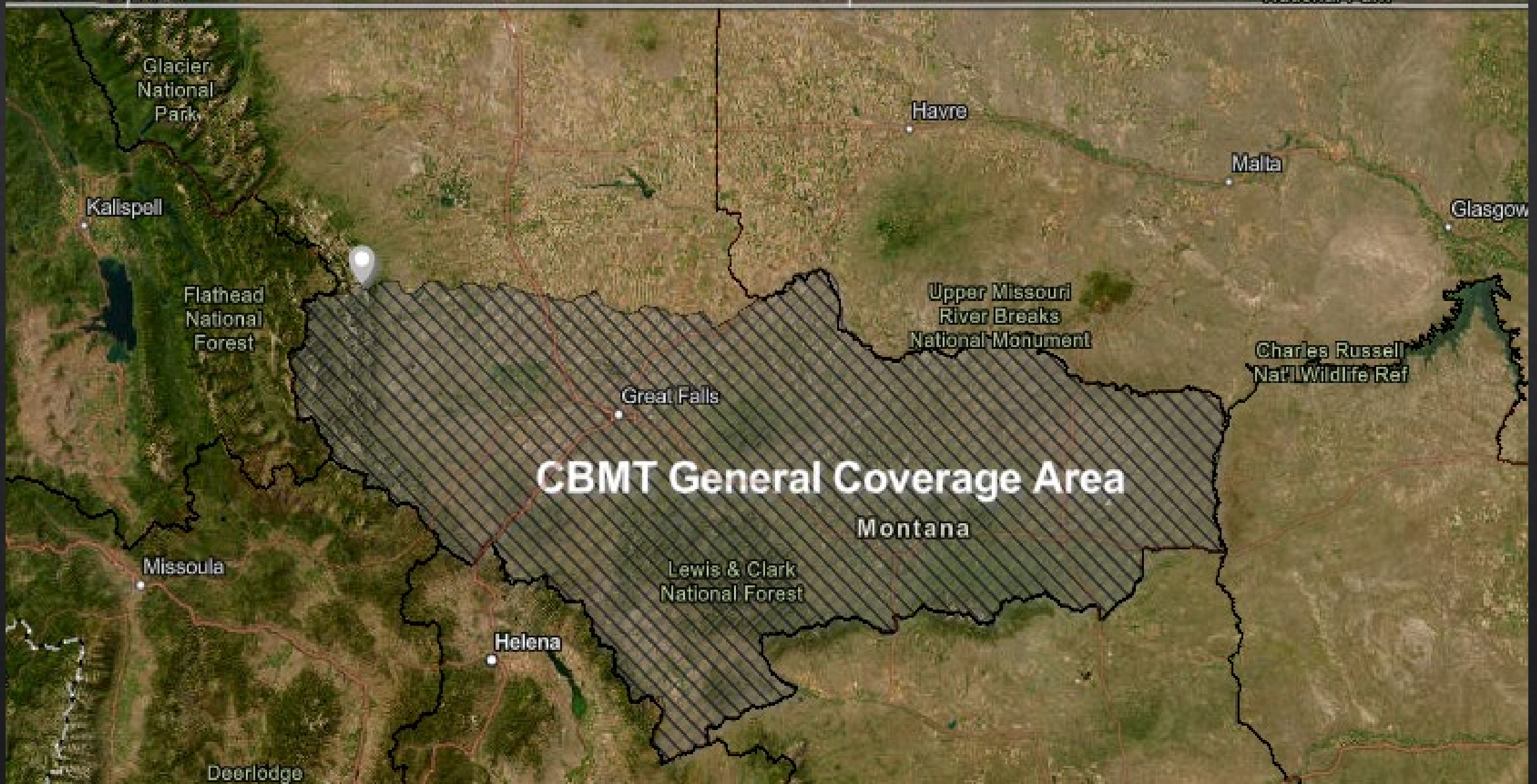


Figure 1. MFWP Region 4 and the portion of the region Choteau Bear Management Team is generally responsible for.



Management Tools

- Education
- Prevention
- Conflict response

Education

- 19 events. ~600 people reached
- Focus on kids, communities, and expansion zones, black bear areas.
- Range of events: small neighborhood outreach events, community wide education events, group talks, schools, booth events, wilderness walks, and area gatherings.





Prevention

<u>Tools</u>	<u>Total</u>
Electric fencing/mat	~20
Grain bin repairs/retrofits:	7
Bear sprays given:	~75
Air horns given:	1
Scare devices deployed:	~10
Loaned (3) bear resistant drums	
Assisted with carcass hauling program	

<u>Complaint type</u>	<u>Total</u>
Physical Responses	57
Near people	18
Beehives	~5
Stored grain	11
Livestock/pet feed	11
Property damage	10
Poultry	2
Livestock	6
Hunter carcass loss	2
Encounter	9
Garbage	1
Fruit trees	2
Birdseed	1

Complaint Response

(A single complaint often populates several fields)









Captures

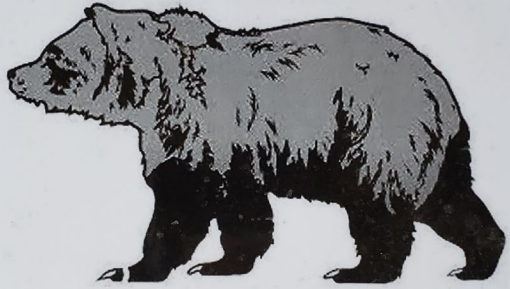
- **716 (Management) 3/15**
 - A young male was observed chasing cattle in Simms. FWP captured and collared the bear. USFWS relocated. The bear was removed 3/25 for a confirmed cattle depredation.
- **718 (Research) 8/15**
 - An adult female without cubs was captured and collared west of Augusta for research and monitoring for MT FWP Trend Monitoring team.
- **720 (Management) 9/16**
 - An adult male was captured near Bynum after eating under a back yard apple tree while a LGD hazed the bear. This bear was collared and relocated.
- **721(Research) 10/30**
 - An adult female without cubs was captured and collared west of Augusta for research and monitoring for MT FWP Trend Monitoring team.



Mortalities

- ◇ **March 25 (Management)**- a collared management male was euthanized for livestock depredation conflict.
- ◇ **April 25 (DOL)**- An unmarked female was shot and killed in a defense of life encounter near Wolf Creek. A single cub-of-the-year was captured and placed with Wildlife Images in Oregon.
- ◇ **Aug 28 (Vehicle)**- An unmarked yearling female was struck by a vehicle and killed SW of Augusta.
- ◇ **Sept 20 (Mistaken ID)**- An adult male, previously collared by FWP was killed by a black bear hunter in a mistaken ID. The bear was still wearing its collar, but the collar was not functional when it was killed.

BEAR AWARE



Bears Frequenting Area



Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks



Public Alerts

- ◆ **5/30, Choteau Call Multiplier Alert**, a lone young bear as well as a female with 3 cubs of the year spending extended time on the edge of City limits. Female grizzly demonstrated defensive behavior. While no food conflicts were reported, unsuccessful preventative capture and relocation efforts were made for both events to elevate human safety and decrease risk of conflict. Signs were placed in the areas of activity and homeowners in the immediate vicinities were notified and invited to Teton Bear Smart meeting to share thoughts and concerns.
- ◆ **6/10, Choteau Call Multiplier Alert**, Lone young bear again seen inside city limits.
- ◆ **6/23, Neighborhood Call Tree** south of Choteau initiated to notify landowners of bear activity in the area.
- ◆ **10/23, Neighborhood Call Tree** south of Choteau initiated to notify landowners of bear activity in the area.
- ◆ **11/8, Neighborhood Call Tree** in the Dutton area was used to notify landowners of bear activity in the area.

G706

2022-2024

- Captured 9/8/22 at turkey depredation site. Assumed 3 year old male.

- Relocated by USFWS near Rogers Pass

- Spent remainder of season in fields between Augusta and Simms

- Dened in the Dearborn

- Spent 2023 in vicinity of Cascade

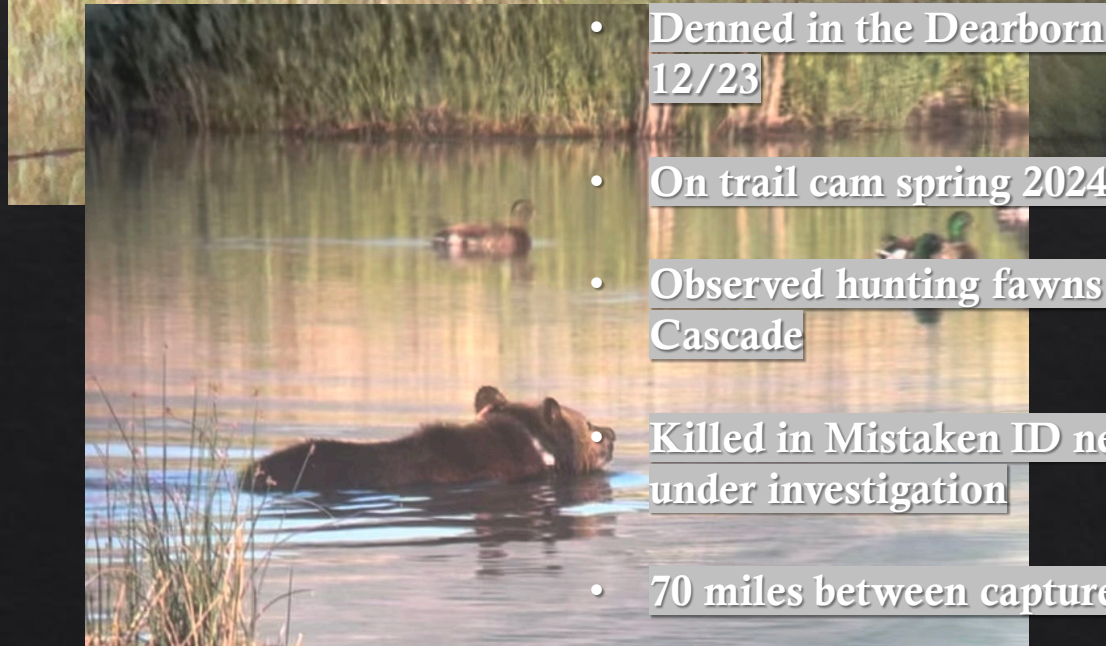
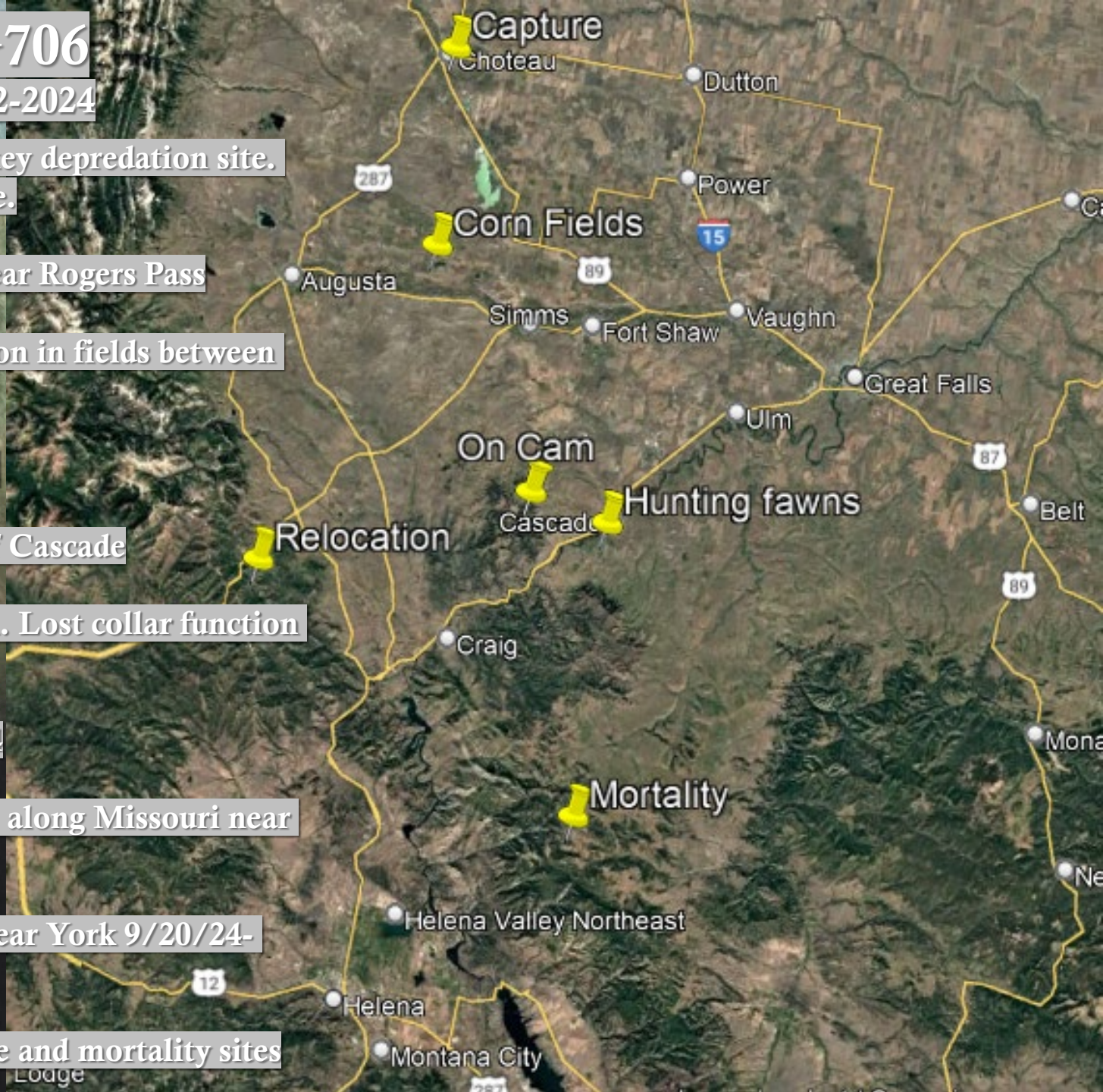
- Dened in the Dearborn. Lost collar function 12/23

- On trail cam spring 2024

- Observed hunting fawns along Missouri near Cascade

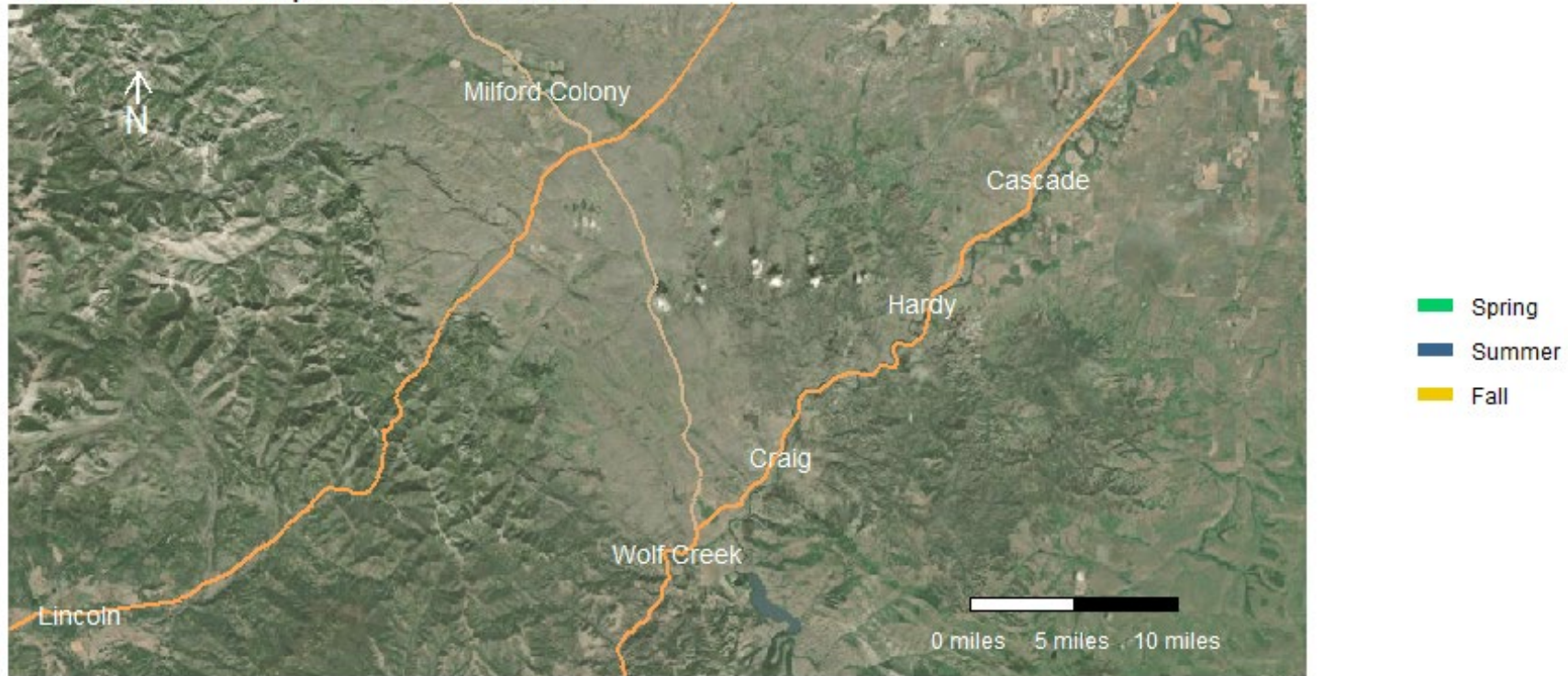
- Killed in Mistaken ID near York 9/20/24- under investigation

- 70 miles between capture and mortality sites



G706: Movements through the seasons 2023

Locations from April - October 2023



Thank you to
all the
wonderful
landowners,
coworkers,
and
colleagues!



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