



United States Department of Agriculture

USDA Wildlife Services FY24 Nonlethal Initiative Report

Christine Lambert



Wildlife Services

Protecting People ♦ Protecting Agriculture ♦ Protecting Wildlife

Wildlife Services Nonlethal Initiative

- 3 Nonlethal Conflict Prevention Specialists
 - Kalispell, MT
 - Browning, MT
 - Victor, MT
- 5 Range Riders
 - Kootenai National Forest
 - Beaverhead National Forest
 - Blackfeet Reservation (hybrid)
 - Salish Mountains
 - Blackfoot Watershed



Electric Fencing

- 81 projects completed
- 78 cooperators served
- 25,000 linear yds
- Continuing to expand 4H support



Turbo Fladry

- 7 projects completed
- 7 cooperators served
- 6.5 miles fladry deployed



Range Riding

- 54 cooperators supported
 - 270,000 acres
 - Kootenai National Forest
 - Beaverhead National Forest
 - Blackfoot Reservation (hybrid)
 - Salish Mountains
 - Blackfoot Watershed
- 15,900 cattle
- 8,000 sheep



Education and Outreach

- 19 outreach events
- 773 attendees



Children and adults learned how to deploy bear spray during a Teton Bear Smart workshop on April 21 at the Weatherbeater Arena in Choteau. Acorn photo by Melody Marinsen

Bear smart 101

Teton Bear Aware offers class on bear spray, electric fencing

By Melody Marinsen
Acorn staff

About 40 people from grade schoolers to senior citizens on April 21 learned how to deploy bear spray and how electric fences can be used to protect livestock and more from grizzlies at Teton Bear Smart's second public education event in its year.

Teton Bear Smart hosted the 90-minute program at the Weatherbeater Arena in Choteau with help from Montana State University Extension in Teton County, Teton County 4-H, Montana Park Wildlife Parks, U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, Sun River Electric Cooperative and AgWest Farm Credit.

Aime Carlson of Choteau, a wildlife biologist who is a member of Teton Bear Smart, and MSU Extension Agent Jenn Swanson welcomed participants. Carl-

son said Teton Bear Smart is a locally organized group working with state and federal agencies to help people safely live, recreate and work in aizzly bear country.

She encouraged people to look at the exhibits, including a grizzly bear hide and cast of paw prints, to pick up educational literature and to buy the ticket for prices. The main prize, however, 80 single ounce cans of BPA-certified bear spray, were free to everyone who learned to deploy the spray.

Since the Bear Smart group formed in Choteau in 2008, Carlson said, its members have applied for grants to fund education and on-farm prevention programs. The group received a \$3,000 grant to work with farmers and Choteau High School educators, who will send reinforcements to onto grain bid doors to help make them bear resistant since grizzlies enjoy munching on harvested

See BEARS, Page 12



USDA Wildlife Services conflict prevention specialist Christy Lambert explains how the new electric fence enclosing the barn and pen where the 4-Hers house swine and lambs during the fair will protect the animals. By Brian Schutt © 2024

- Teton Bear Smart
- 4H meetings/camps



By Brian Schutt © 2024



Wildlife Services

Protecting People ♦ Protecting Agriculture ♦ Protecting Wildlife

Livestock Protection

- 20,993 cattle
- 8,072 sheep
- 1,809 beehives
- 695 chickens
- 134 pigs
- 111 goats
- 30 ducks
- 26 other fowl
- 9 rabbits
- 8 horses
- 8 llamas
- 3 LGDs



Collaborations

- Swan Valley Connections
- People & Carnivores
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services
- Blackfoot Challenge
- Montana State University
- Margo Supplies
- Greater Yellowstone Coalition
- Blackfoot Nation Stockgrowers Association
- Blackfoot Nation Fish and Wildlife



Chrissy Lambert
Kalispell, MT

Christine.Lambert@usda.gov

406-360-1476



Wildlife Services

Protecting People ♦ Protecting Agriculture ♦ Protecting Wildlife