Conflict Data and Management Program

Cubs of bear #25 in Gardiner Dump, 1975

Management of Large Carnivore Conflicts Requires a Significant Amount of Manpower

Thanks to Everyone !

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CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

- Grizzly Bear
- Black Bear
- Mountain Lion
- Wolf (TG area)

Human-Wildlife Conflicts

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

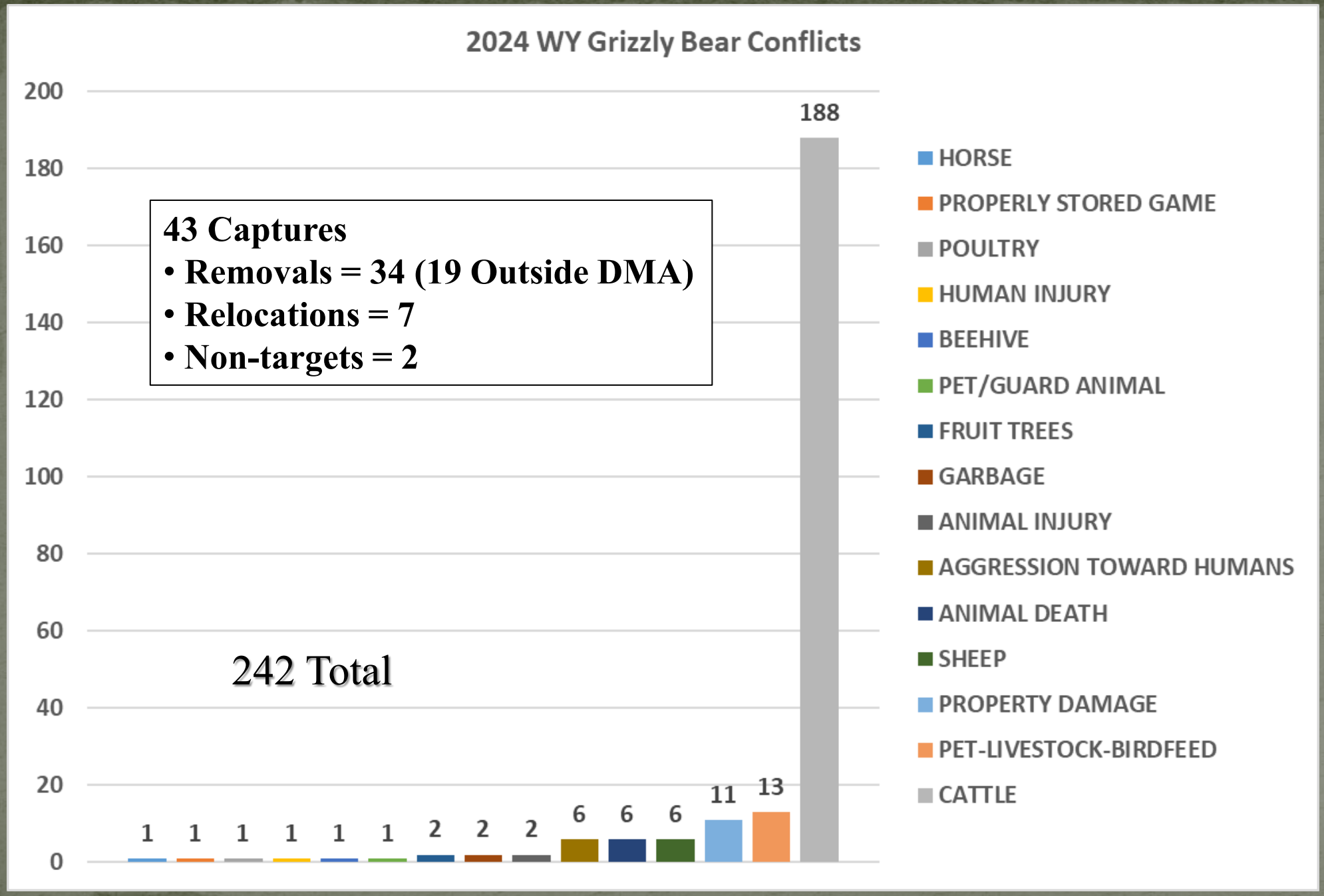
- **Management of human-wildlife conflicts**
  - **Promotes tolerance and Department support**
  - **Human safety is paramount**

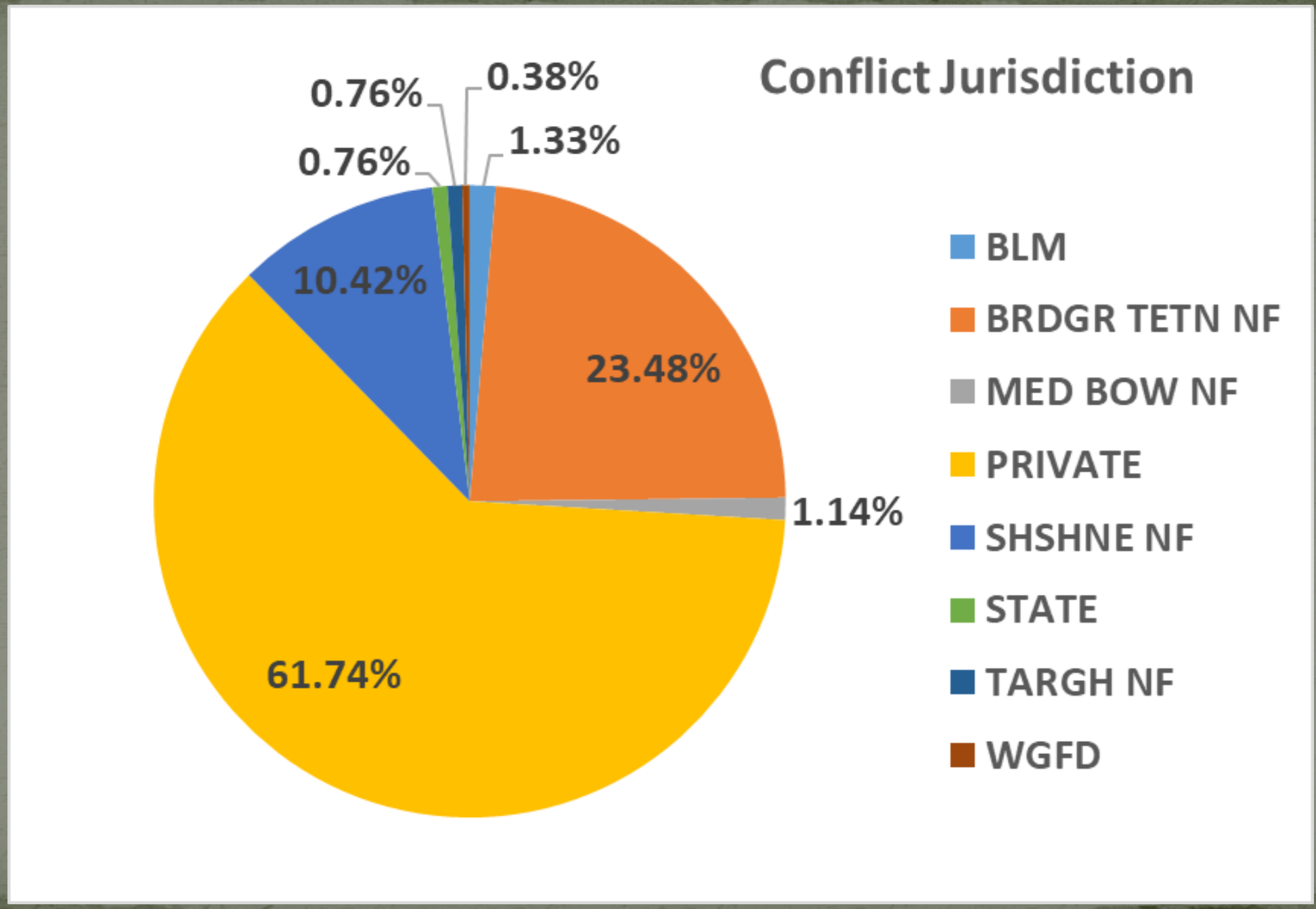
Data includes the minimum of verified, legitimate conflicts

Sighting/Encounter

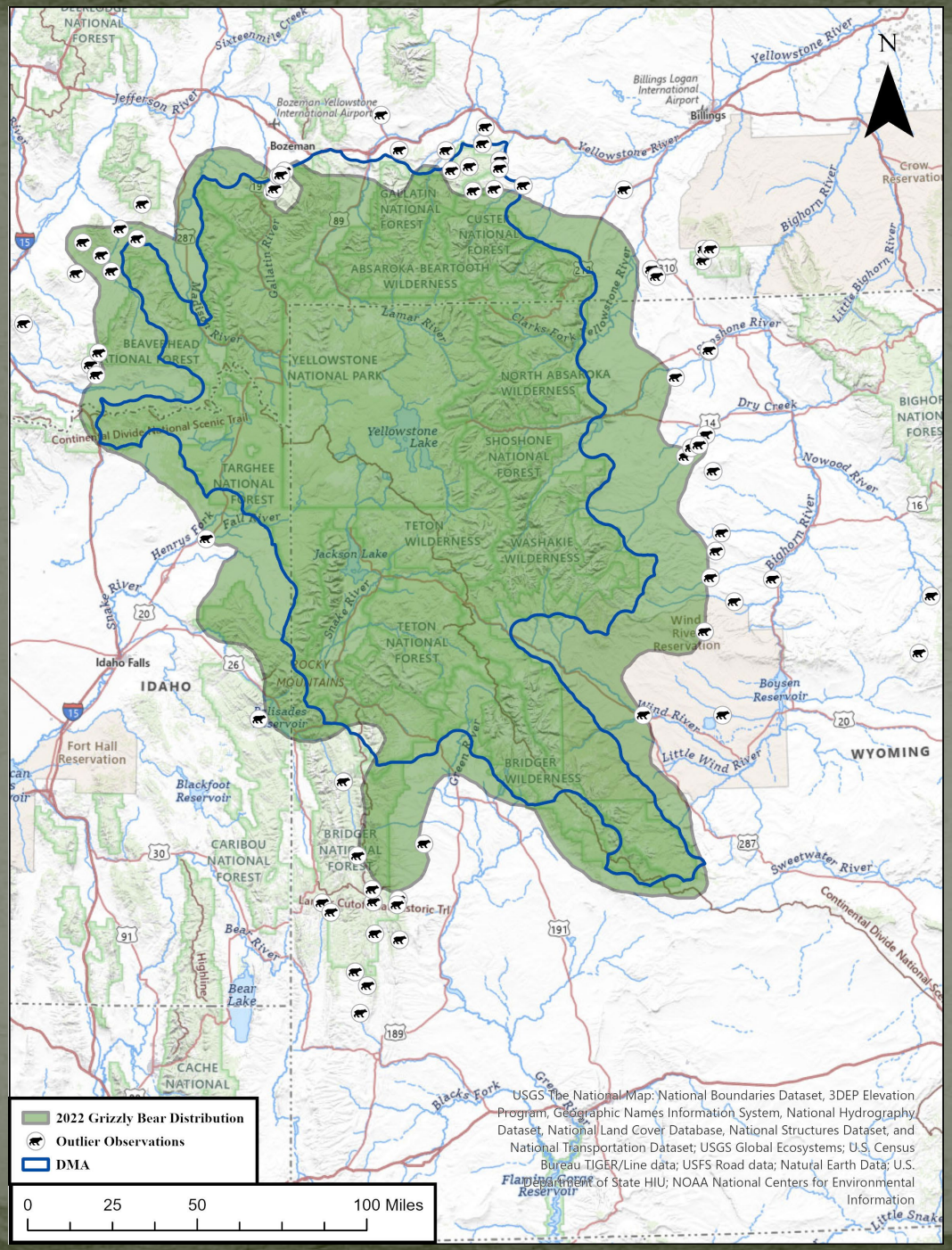
Conflict

2024 WY Trophy Game Conflicts
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
528 Total
18
34
234
242
MOUNTAIN LION
WOLF
BLACK BEAR
GRIZZLY BEAR


2024 WY Grizzly Bear Conflicts
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
43 Captures
• Removals = 34 (19 Outside DMA)
• Relocations = 7
• Non-targets = 2
242 Total
1
1
1
1
1
1
2
2
2
6
6
6
11
13
188
HORSE
PROPERLY STORED GAME
POULTRY
HUMAN INJURY
BEEHIVE
PET/GUARD ANIMAL
FRUIT TREES
GARBAGE
ANIMAL INJURY
AGGRESSION TOWARD HUMANS
ANIMAL DEATH
SHEEP
PROPERTY DAMAGE
PET-LIVESTOCK-BIRDFEED
CATTLE


Conflict Jurisdiction
0.76%
0.38%
1.33%
0.76%
10.42%
23.48%
1.14%
61.74%
BLM
BRDGR TETN NF
MED BOW NF
PRIVATE
SHSHNE NF
STATE
TARGH NF
WGFD

Range Expansion Beyond Suitable Habitat



What Drives Annual Conflict Numbers?

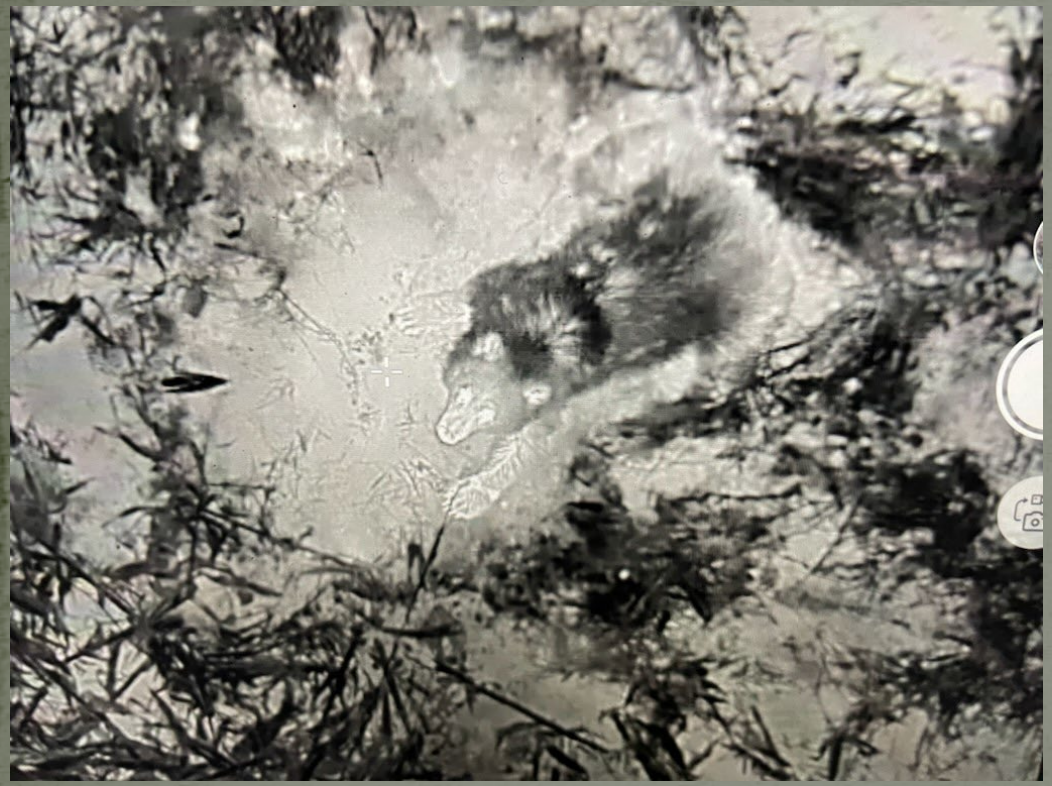
Social Tolerance

Real and Perceived Threats

Abundance of Natural Foods

Population Demographics: Size, Distribution, Age and Sex Structure, Health of Individuals.....

Field Response Program



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

Focus on Prevention

Education

Securing Garbage

More Prevention

Damage Compensation Program (Livestock and Beehives)

Monetary compensation to reimburse livestock owners

- **Payment made at market value**
- **Payment for killed, injured and missing livestock; guard dogs (Verified Damage Only)**

Every carcass is examined

More Likely Than Not

When Other Options are Exhausted

- We attempt capture if the situation warrants
- We relocate if applicable
- Some animals have to be removed from the population

Predator Attack Team (PAT)

- Trained personnel
- Team approach

Predator Attack Team (PAT)

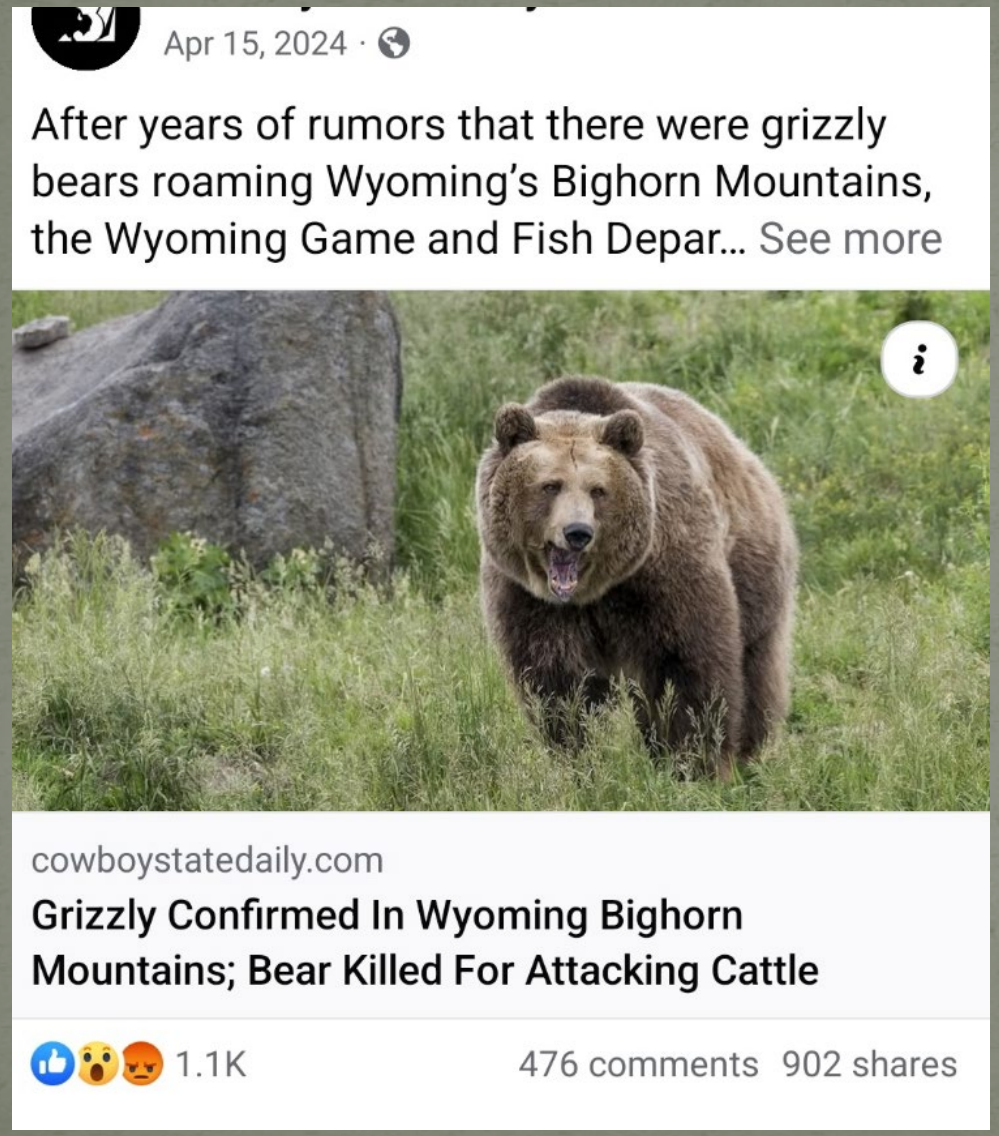
- One human injury in WY, no deaths
- Six self-defense shooting investigations

(All grizzly bear)

Sheridan Region, Spring 2024

- Regional Training
- CEW’S
- New Wardens
- Local Law Enforcement

Social Media



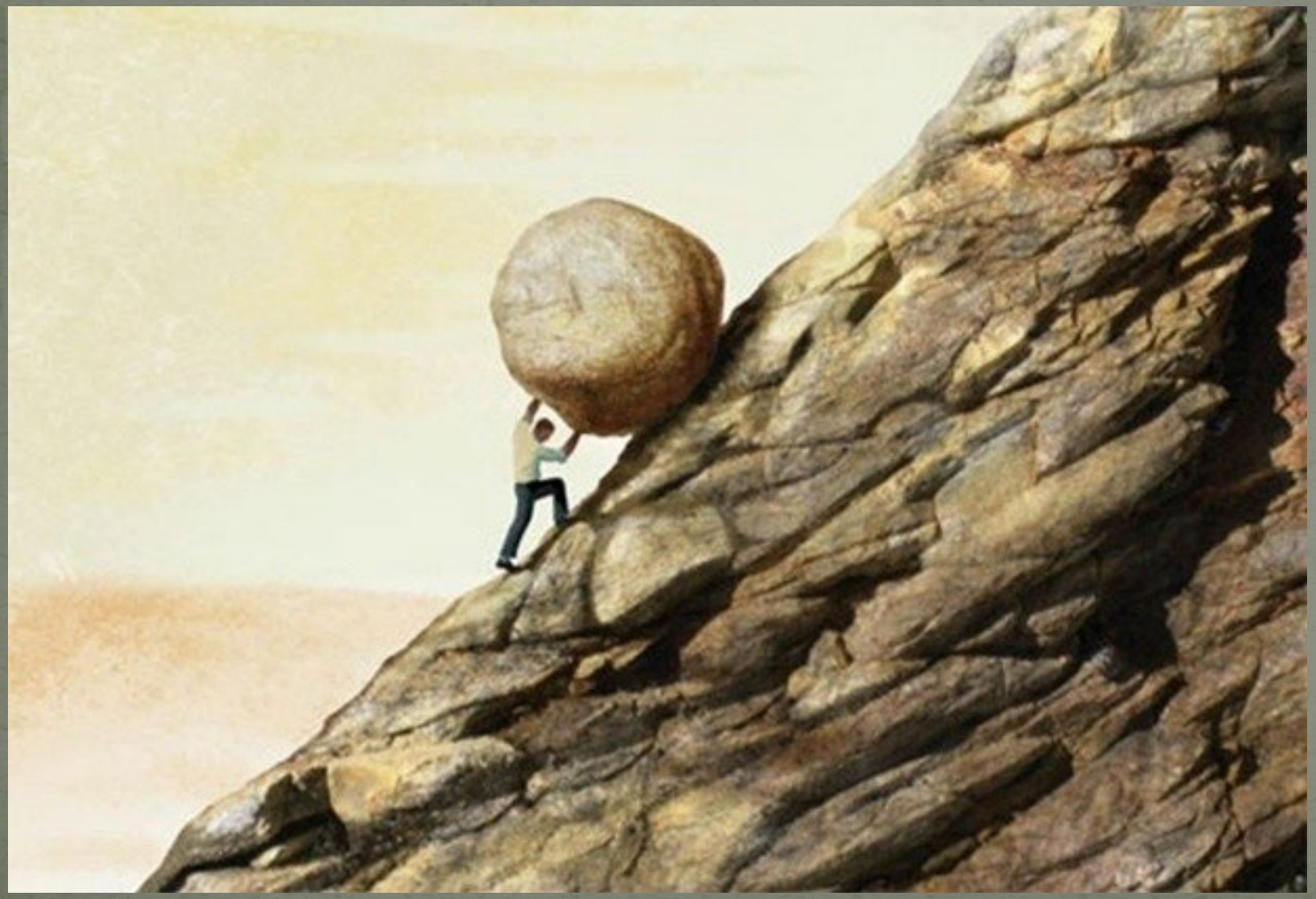
- False perceptions of state management
- Humans are loving animals to death quite literally
- Constantly addressing misinformation by so-called "experts"

Conflict Summary

- Number of annual trophy game conflicts are relatively steady because of vigilant personnel

- Increasing numbers of large carnivores and interest in them creates new management challenges in a dynamic social and political arena.

Large carnivore employees are dedicated, very efficient, and hard working



Supervisors, Wardens, and Biologists