



Ben >



Fri, Mar 15 at 10:45 AM

they caught the bear, and are taking it to freeze out. There's a chance relocation could be done this afternoon, but not absolutely necessary. Let me know if you have a couple minutes to talk. I'm walking into a meeting at 11, but will be done around noon

Fri, Mar 15 at 12:02 PM

Just finished up. How are things looking?

Fri, Mar 15 at 5:36 PM

How's it going over there?

Fri, Mar 15 at 8:08 PM

We really need to change those inreach messages, hahaha! Give me a call whenever it's convenient, and feel free to stay somewhere if you want or do whatever works for you. Either way, thanks a bunch, really.

Haha yes we do. Back in Choteau now. Release went well.



iMessage



9:15

LTE 



Ben >



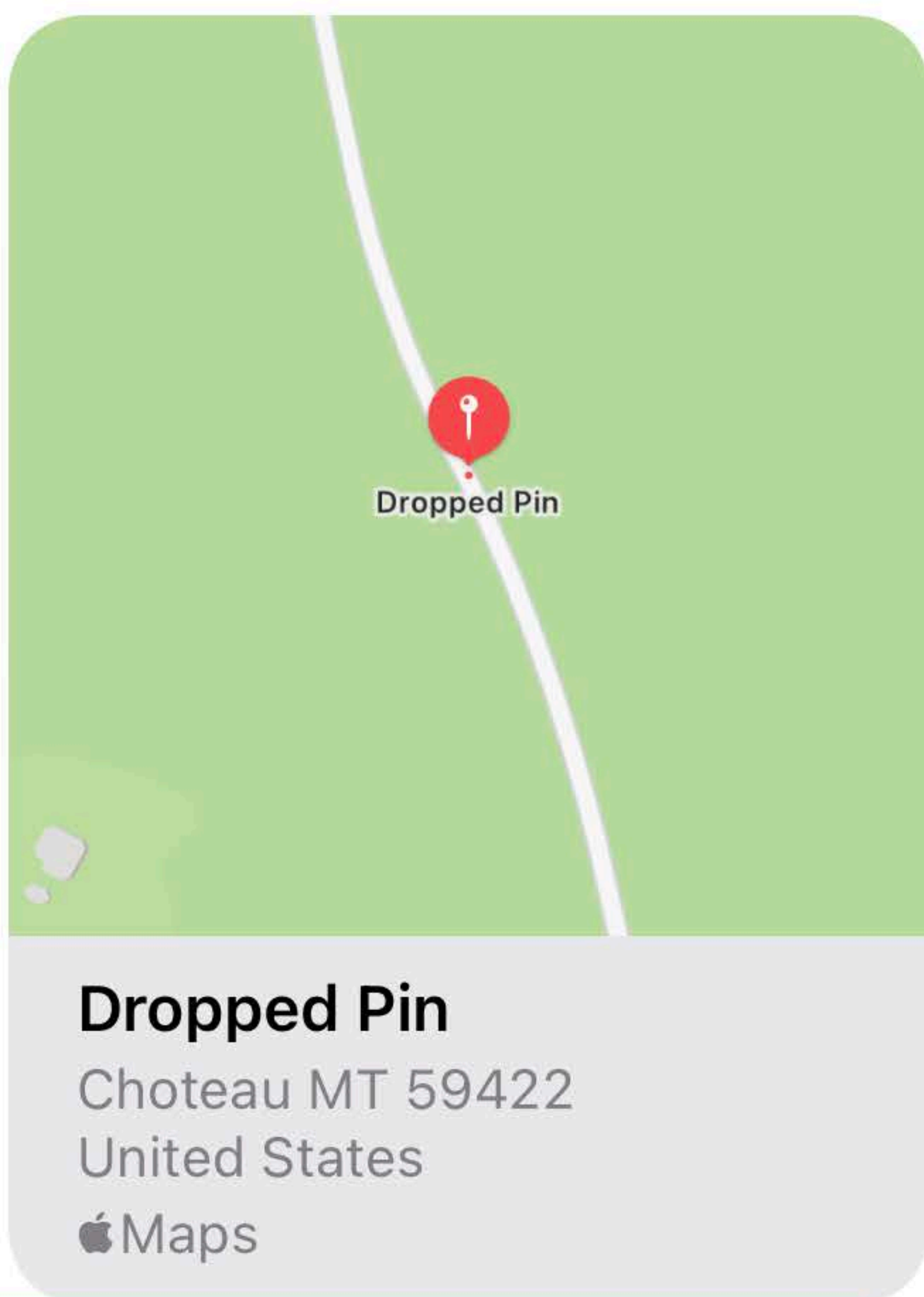
Ok, great.

Sun, Mar 17 at 10:00 AM

Hi Rory. Could you send me your best guess to the location for that release?

*best guess...

Sun, Mar 17 at 1:01 PM

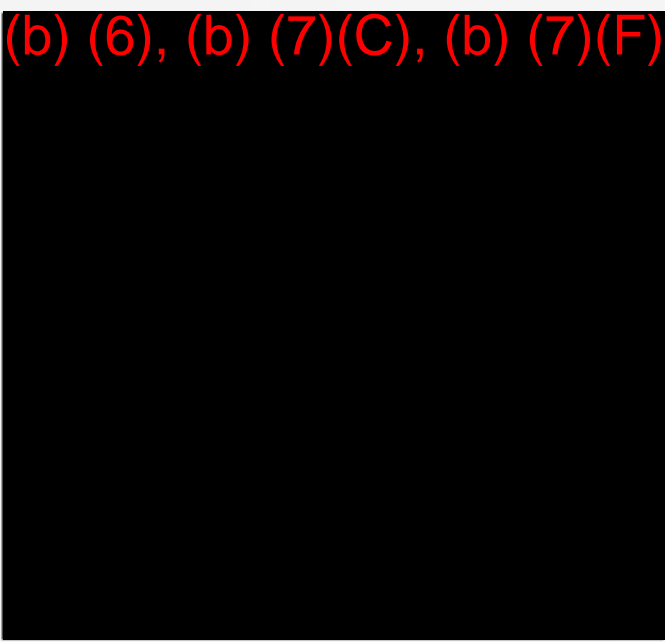


We backed the trailer up so the door was facing north up that road at this hairpin turn right before the ski area.



iMessage





Maps

There is an old blazer in my back yard. Let's drop it right next to that guy

When you get a chance later on, please share the release coordinates. Thanks again Rory!



Sat, Mar 16 at 12:07 AM



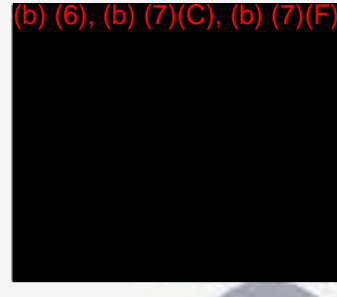
Dropped Pin
Choteau MT 59422
United States
 Maps

Delivered



iMessage





3 People >



iMessage
Fri, Mar 15 at 12:09 PM

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

I just ordered a couple pizzas. I'll have them at freezeout



Just getting gas and then I'll be on my way

Fri, Mar 15 at 3:04 PM

In Choteau. I'm assuming you guys are at the warden station at freezeout on the east side?

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

We are at the main freezeout building. South end.



iMessage





Benjamin >



Fri, Mar 22 at 7:56 AM

From [REDACTED]. Great timing

The simms bear was on (b) (6) (b) (6) by blackleaf last night at 7. I notified them yesterday afternoon and this morning. The location is right where we have had depredations in the past. It is storming pretty hard today

Shoot.

Not literally!!

Haha!

Darn it probably a better word choice

Do you want to chat today, or what's your schedule like?

Sure if you're up for it

Yeah, but might need to try to find a different time. We're packing and leaving West this morning, so I think 9:30 might be a bit chaotic. Do you have any time slots later



iMessage





Benjamin >



Yeah, but might need to try to find a different time. We're packing and leaving West this morning , so I think 9:30 might be a bit chaotic. Do you have any time slots later on?

If you're off today, let's wait til next week. Is there anything urgent? I do have time at noon if yes

Fri, Mar 22 at 9:33 AM

Nothing urgent that I can think of. Maybe we can find time on Wednesday while we're both in the office?

Sure

Sun, Mar 24 at 6:49 PM

Ben- got a minute for a call? Dustin temple just sent a text about Ws helicopter

Just talked with dustin. Call if you want to hear - otherwise we'll talk tomorrow



iMessage



BJ

Benjamin >

From Cory. Trying to see if they can get it to a local taxidermist, and waiting for more info. Wanted to pass along regardless.

Bear has been killed. Right near the calf kill. Send someone over to get him please.

FYI...

Me: Thanks for the update. Everything go all right? I don't know that I can get somebody there this short of notice this afternoon, but could tomorrow morning. Any chance someone there can get him to Great Falls taxidermy or someone else over there?

Cory: You guys knew they were going after him this morn. Ive been directed to leave the bear after chad gets the collar. Will let you know where it is located thereafter

Mon, Mar 25 at 1:57 PM

Wow- that's unfortunate



iMessage





Dustin >



iMessage
Sun, Mar 24 at 6:41 PM

Hillary - Wondering if you might be willing to help me understand your reluctance to use the wildlife services helicopter and crew on this bear near the Sun River WMA?

This is Dustin Temple with FWP

Happy to talk about it

Are you free?

Yes

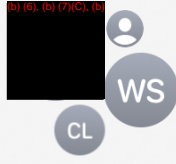
Feel free to call

Delivered



iMessage





4 People >



Text Message
Wed, Mar 13 at 5:38 PM

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

There is a smallish grizzly off highway 21 by Simms right now that is reported to be chasing cattle. Game wardens are responding. I've asked them to call before they do anything with the bear. Assuming nothing else happens tonight, and no carcass is found, I may consider a preemptive trapping effort tomorrow. We are on our way back from training in Missoula. I'll share more as I get details

Wed, Mar 13 at 7:31 PM

Thanks

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

Thu, Mar 14 at 1:08 PM

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

We found the bear with the drone and it's already got a calf. I'm going to grab a culvert and will meet WS to devise a plan

Thu, Mar 14 at 4:04 PM

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

We got a culvert set with the calf



Text Message



3/15 9:25 AM

Also, in case folks are interested, we had what we thought was the 1st depredation of the season yesterday on the East Front. Turned out to be a bear on a calf that died from other causes, but [REDACTED] is setting a trap regardless in the hopes of a preemptive capture. This bear had been seen in and around cows/calves for the past several days, so hoping to avert an actual depredation.



Vance, Morgan C 3/15 10:31 AM

MV

Thanks for the update. If he catches it preemptively, are we moving it?

3/15 10:33 AM

We may... it depends on access to relocation sites. If it turns out someone can get to a good one that FWP can use, [REDACTED] might just do it. If not though, then we would step in (the "we" to be determined based on availability). In a pinch, Morgan, is the diesel out at FWP up and running, or would your truck be available?

Vance, Morgan C 3/15 10:40 AM

MV

The diesel would probably need a jump but is fine otherwise. First go-around for the Titan? 😊

Saturday, March 16

Vance, Morgan C 3/16 11:08 AM

MV

I'm guessing we would have heard if there was a bear there?

3/16 11:10 AM

Bear was captured, Rory and forest service did release late yesterday evening.

Vance, Morgan C 3/16 11:27 AM

MV

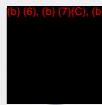
Ah, ok.

Hope it went well.

Where did it end up?

3/16 11:32 AM

Up by the closed ski area



WS

CL

4 People >



Thu, Mar 14 at 4:04 PM

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

We got a culvert set with the calf. The calf was not killed by the bear upon inspection. This is no longer a depredation effort but a preemptive

Great work (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F), thank you and John.

Cory Loecker

CL

Thx (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) good work

Fri, Mar 15 at 10:06 AM

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

We caught a bear this morning. Looks like the same bear we saw on the drone. Will review cameras and take him to freezeout to prep a collar

Thanks (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

Fri, Mar 22 at 7:50 AM

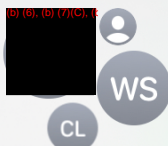
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

The simms bear was on (b) (6) (b) (6) by blackleaf last night at 7. I notified them yesterday afternoon and this morning. The



Text Message





4 People >



Fri, Mar 22 at 7:50 AM

Chad White

The simms bear was on (b) (6) (b) (6) by blackleaf last night at 7. I notified them yesterday afternoon and this morning. The location is right where we have had depredations in the past. It is storming pretty hard today

Fri, Mar 22 at 12:17 PM

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

(b) (6) tracked the bear through his pairs and said it looked like the cows chased him off. Ali did not locate the bear with VHF. All is quiet for now

+1 (406) 788-4765

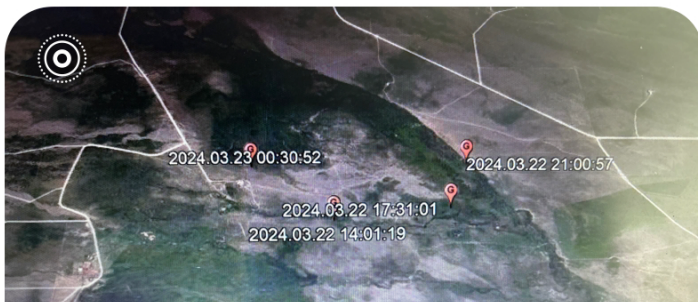


Thanks for the update!

Thanks a bunch.

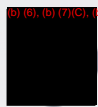
Sun, Mar 24 at 9:41 AM

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)



Text Message





WS



CL

4 People >



(b) (6) said he ran the bear off with a pickup. Said it was hard to bump. Fresh kill and not too much consumption. Cory can you call me?

Sun, Mar 24 at 4:31 PM

Thanks, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) Just got off the phone with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) Do you want to give me a call whenever you have a chance?

Sun, Mar 24 at 6:20 PM

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

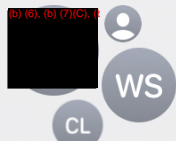
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) is making plans to find the bear tomorrow late morning with 4 WS agents and hounds. He said he didn't think they need FWP and asked for the collar frequency instead. In my opinion, with the timeline and use of hounds, there is a possibility the operation will spill over onto neighboring lands including the game range.

I am less comfortable with FWP not being involved in such a process but will follow direction given here. Thanks all



Text Message





4 People >



(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) given here. Thanks all

Cory Loecker

I just talked to kurt before seeing this text. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) plan on being around with your drone and helping (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) I will clarify working on the blackleaf wma tonight.

I would prefer FWP be involved as well.

Cory Loecker

We will be. I just clarified that

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) is getting ahold of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) tonight

Yep, just supporting/agreeing

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)
Copy on the plan. Drone use depending on weather and cloud ceiling

Cory Loecker

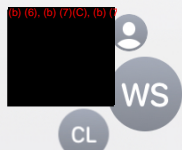
We are ok to work on the wma within reason. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) runs drone ws does the shooting.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)
I will work on the drone tonight. I



Text Message





4 People >



(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

I will work on the drone tonight. I was having software issues last use. Also trying to find a copilot to stay legal. Long story short, drone use is in question at the moment.

Just so we're on the same page, do you guys have a perimeter in mind? We talked about removal if the bear is on the scene/in the general vicinity. Are we talking about the (b) (6) property, some distance onto the game range or other directions, or ?

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

(b) (6)

That's the calf location for reference

Mon, Mar 25 at 10:13 AM

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

Guys are pulling in now. VHF says the bear is relatively close to the calf location

Ok, thanks

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

Tue Mar 26 at 9:45 AM



Text Message



12:28

5Gw 



Cory >



Fri, Mar 15 at 12:36 PM

Hey Ben give a call will ya.
Thanks

Fri, Mar 15 at 3:27 PM

I sent age and sex to kujala. Will
wait to hear DO recommendation
Thanks Ben

Ok. Thanks

In a meeting. I can call you in 30
or so, or can step out and call if
needed

Quentin gave me direction letting
u know what that is

Ok. I'll try to step out real quick

Sat, Mar 16 at 11:00 AM

Release the bear?

Yes. Sorry. The bear was released
late yesterday evening. No bait.

Teton ski area?



iMessage





CL



Cory >

Can i get a location pin please.
Thanks Ben

I don't have the pin handy, but I can get it for you later today. Rory said it was just across a little bridge from the ski area.

Ok

Since our folks ended up doing the relocation, our general protocol has been to put out a press release. If FWP is planning on doing so as well, we'd support coordination on our various releases if there's an opportunity to do so.

Yes.

Sun, Mar 17 at 9:21 AM

Release Location pin? Thanks.
Also dave hagengruber is our com ed guy in r4 who will be drafting our press release we can try to coordinate some of the language.

Sun, Mar 17 at 10:54 AM



iMessage





Cory >



coordinate some of the language.

Sun, Mar 17 at 10:54 AM

47.935484, -112.804023

And that sounds good on coordination. I assume folks are going to want to get stuff out fairly quickly on Monday?

Mon, Mar 18 at 9:29 AM

Should I reach out to Dave directly, or what's the best way to do this?

We are working on one. Quentin said you can reach out to him later for any coordination. Our draft will be to Quentin later today. ThanksBen

Ok, sounds good. Would you mind letting me know when it has found its way to Quentin, and then I can get a hold of him? Thanks

Yes

Mon, Mar 18 at 4:20 PM



iMessage



12:31

5Gw 



Cory >



Mon, Mar 18 at 4:20 PM

Hi Cory. Just checking in to see if anything has made its way to the DO. I'm headed out of town here in a bit, but will have some time to look at and talk about things tomorrow morning as well. Thanks

Hasnt yet

Ok, thanks

Tue, Mar 19 at 9:05 AM

Good morning. I have to at least send an email out to some of our folks and a few of our partners about the relocation, so just wanted to see where things stood on your end

I submitted my comments yesterday. Dave H was to send to greg lemmon Doubt its to quentin yet. Call quentin.

What's the best number for him?

Sun, Mar 24 at 2:08 PM



iMessage





Cory >



What's the best number for him?

Sun, Mar 24 at 2:08 PM

Hey Ben. [REDACTED] from WS is up on site. With location data collared simms bear being on site the last two days if it is him that caused the depredation our stance has not changed. If it is not the collared bear we trap and reassess. Thanks. Cory

Sun, Mar 24 at 4:16 PM

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are waiting for direction from usfws on action if collared bear

Talking to both of them, coming up with a plan

Sun, Mar 24 at 6:10 PM

Whats the plan

Do you have a minute for a call? If not, we can chat tomorrow morning. Doesn't sound like anything is going to happen before tomorrow anyways.



iMessage





Cory >



Just holler in morn then. Just gonna fill my sup in the plan

In short, the plan is to try to revisit the area tomorrow with telemetry, and see if they can locate that bear.

But I'll call you tomorrow morning, or feel free to call me if there's a good time for you

Mon, Mar 25 at 8:59 AM

Are you available in 20 minutes or so?

Mon, Mar 25 at 12:12 PM

Bear has been killed. Right near the calf kill. Send someone over to get him please.

Thanks for the update. Everything go all right? I don't know that I can get somebody there this short of notice this afternoon, but could tomorrow morning. Any chance someone there can get him to Great Falls taxidermy or someone else over there?



iMessage





Cory >



bear.

But I'll call you tomorrow morning, or feel free to call me if there's a good time for you

Mon, Mar 25 at 8:59 AM

Are you available in 20 minutes or so?

Mon, Mar 25 at 12:12 PM

Bear has been killed. Right near the calf kill. Send someone over to get him please.

Thanks for the update. Everything go all right? I don't know that I can get somebody there this short of notice this afternoon, but could tomorrow morning. Any chance someone there can get him to Great Falls taxidermy or someone else over there?

You guys knew they were going after him this morn. Ive been directed to leave the bear after (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (1) gets the collar. Will let you know where it is located thereafter



iMessage



12:35

5Gw 



TB



Trina >

OK thanks

Thu, Mar 21 at 8:28 AM

So how come the simms Bear didn't get removed permanently?

Because it didn't kill anything and had no conflict history

That's what I figured but I wanted to make sure when people ask. Thanks!

You bet. I imagine there're plenty of other versions going around, so appreciate you asking.

Always are

Haha

Thu, Mar 21 at 10:37 AM

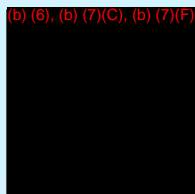
If you can keep me posted on stuff happening, that would be awesome. I know you're busy, but it helps me answer questions when I know what's going on. :)

Thu, Mar 21 at 2:42 PM



iMessage





Do you have a moment to chat in a few?

Just walking out the door, but I could talk in an hour or two, or tomorrow morning?

Or for a couple minutes right now...

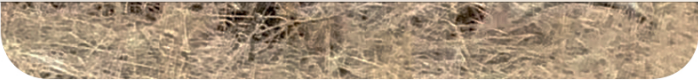
Up to you. Once I'm off the road I could type a long one if you'd rather



iMessage



(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)



I'm thinking I will try for a preemptive capture in the morning unless something changes. This producer and his neighbor both watched the bear working their cows. Second guy chased it off and fired in the air. Wardens didn't find anything. Might be good to get ahead of an issue

Wed, Mar 13 at 10:10 PM

It's way too early for this, isn't it? In all seriousness, I think preemptive makes a lot of sense. Give me a call tomorrow if you want to chat, otherwise, just keep me posted as you learn more and have ideas.

Unrelated, but again, good job today. I think it was really well done and a good addition to the mix.

Thu, Mar 14 at 9:44 AM

Can I call you in 10?



iMessage



12:38

5Gw 

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)



Certainly. No rush just updating you

Thu, Mar 14 at 1:45 PM

Can you talk about a new plan?

Yep, give me a call whenever

Did you/WS determine the bear killed the calf?

Here with John. He says the producer isn't happy with moving it and would like for us to talk again

Were you able to talk to Brent?

Talked to Brent and then Dave again. Think we might have an option if capture seems feasible.

Thu, Mar 14 at 5:01 PM

No rush at this point, but give me a call whenever it's convenient

Fri, Mar 15 at 8:41 AM

Don't get a morning trap trigger co



iMessage



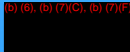
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)



Ben I got a morning trap trigger so I'm on the way to check now and will update the group

Sounds good

Fri, Mar 15 at 12:13 PM

Hey  Not urgent, but give me a call if you get a minute or two at some point.

Fri, Mar 15 at 7:39 PM

Sounds like bear has been released, all going well

Mon, Mar 18 at 12:01 PM

Was that bear captured in Teton or Lewis and Clark county?

Mon, Mar 18 at 1:12 PM

Cascade county

(b) (6)

Sorry, yeah... Teton or Cascade. Thanks!



iMessage



(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)



Sun, Mar 24 at 6:08 PM

Hi (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) Sorry to bug you, but just wanted to let you know that I got a call from Lane Yager. He wasn't sure he believed that initial calf hadn't been killed by a bear, so I told him briefly how all that went down. Don't know if he'll call you as well, but just wanted to give you a heads up.

Sun, Mar 24 at 7:16 PM

Thanks for the heads up. Rumor mill is running.

Apparently so

Mon, Mar 25 at 12:21 PM

Hi (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) Are you on the scene there with that bear?

Yes I am

Got a very brief update from Cory. Everything go all right?

Yes. Just like we planned



iMessage





Rory >



they caught the bear, and are taking it to freeze out. There's a chance relocation could be done this afternoon, but not absolutely necessary. Let me know if you have a couple minutes to talk. I'm walking into a meeting at 11, but will be done around noon

Fri, Mar 15 at 12:02 PM

Just finished up. How are things looking?

Fri, Mar 15 at 5:36 PM

How's it going over there?

Fri, Mar 15 at 8:08 PM

We really need to change those inreach messages, hahaha! Give me a call whenever it's convenient, and feel free to stay somewhere if you want or do whatever works for you. Either way, thanks a bunch, really.

Haha yes we do. Back in Choteau now. Release went well.



iMessage





Rory >

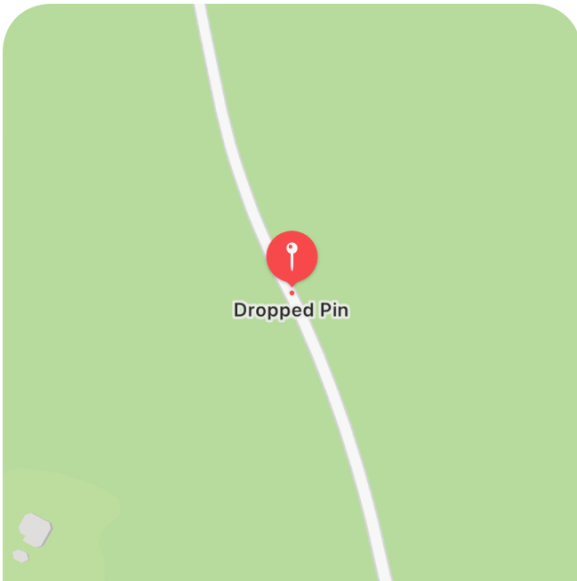


Sun, Mar 17 at 10:00 AM

Hi Rory. Could you send me your best guess to the location for that release?

*best guess...

Sun, Mar 17 at 1:01 PM

**Dropped Pin**

Choteau MT 59422

United States

 Apple Maps

We backed the trailer up so the door was facing north up that road at this hairpin turn right before the ski area.

Perfect, thanks!



iMessage





Ringer



Hilary >

Or 5...

Fri, Mar 15 at 8:52 PM

Just wanted to let you know that the release is done and sounds like everything went well. I'll coordinate with Joe about a press release, but let me know if you have any thoughts as well

Great. Thanks Ben.
Press release goes out Monday?
I think we just say what happened and why we relocated in this situation

Yeah, I assume Joe would try to get it out on Monday. And I was figuring the same basic one as well, but open to suggestions if folks think we should tweak this one.

It would be good to do a quick review.
Matt wants to see fwp press release...we should probably send him outs as well



iMessage





Hilary >



(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) said he suggested we be given the opportunity to review an FWP release before it goes out, but wasn't sure if that would happen or not

Let's hope they do

Mon, Mar 18 at 10:08 AM

We may need to review the current items on Morgan's spreadsheet before we say go forth and conquer

Tue, Mar 19 at 9:59 AM

Hi. Do you have a good number for Quentin?

Quentin Kujala

QK



Just to keep you in the loop, I am trying to coordinate with Quentin, and holding off on emails or press releases from our end hoping we have a chance to talk today. If not, we'll just move ahead with our stuff. That sound OK?



iMessage





Hilary >



Yes sounds good. Thanks Ben.
You could also try Greg lemon.

Lemon, Greg

LG >

Ok, thanks. I'll try him in a bit if I don't hear back from Quentin. Are you on or do you want to be on this Selkirk release site call in a couple minutes?

I don't need to be if you and Wayne are on.

Yes, I believe both of us are

Tue, Mar 19 at 2:00 PM

Hi. We haven't gotten to the place we're staying, so I might be in and out of the NCE meeting

Tue, Mar 19 at 9:07 PM

FWP is not putting out a press release. Joe and I finished one up today, so should hav gone out either this evening or tomorrow.

Wed. Mar 20 at 7:17 AM



iMessage



From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: Re: Grizzly Bear Conflict Situation
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 3:08:58 PM

Thanks Ben

From: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 1:45 PM
To: Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Nelson, Marjorie (Marj) <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Grizzly Bear Conflict Situation

Updating everyone on this situation: WS and FWP went back in this morning and located the bear near the depreciation site. Per our conversations yesterday and last night, WS removed the bear. From what I've gathered thus far, everything went smoothly given the situation. WS is removing the head and paws (standard protocol when whole carcass is not retrieved), and someone from our crew will drive over tomorrow morning and pick up the specimens.

Thanks all.

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497

From: Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 1:26:00 PM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Nelson, Marjorie (Marj) <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: Grizzly Bear Conflict Situation

Great summary Hilary. Thanks.

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 10:04 AM
To: Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>; Nelson, Marjorie (Marj) <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Grizzly Bear Conflict Situation

Matt/Marj:

I received a call from Dustin Temple (FWP) last night about the following:

On Sunday, WS confirmed a grizzly bear killed a calf near the Sun River WMA (east front). The landowner said he chased the bear off the carcass Friday morning, and thought it was a collared bear. The bear FWP collared and we relocated last week after it had been found

scavenging on a dead calf (WS was unsure of the cause of death, but determined it was not killed by the bear) was seen in and around cows on Friday evening in this same area, but was chased off by the cows. However, GPS collar data from that bear indicated he had remained in the area, and was in the general vicinity when the calf was killed late Saturday/early Sunday. Based on that information combined with the fact that there are still very few bears up and about, the general feeling is the collared bear likely killed the calf. Ben gave FWP and WS permission to remove the bear. WS asked if they could use a helicopter to do the removal. We said no to helicopter, but approved WS to shoot or trap.

I received a call from Dustin Temple Sunday night asking for our rationale for denying use of helicopter. I said: 1) we don't use helicopters in WY or ID and this would be precedent setting; 2) a single calf depredation does not rise to the level that a helicopter removal is needed; 3) the depredation was in an area accessible by vehicle, again, making a helicopter a convenience vs. a "necessity"; 4) our concern that if a helicopter is used in this situation, WS would be asking to use it every time.

He said staff relayed safety concerns about the removal. This is doubtful as no one brought this up to Ben; WS did ask about a helicopter, believing it was the most efficient way to find and remove the bear, but safety concerns were not part of that conversation. The bear has a collar and if a specific situation is unsafe, they should not put themselves in that situation. Wait for the bear to move to a better location. This is why we collar bears after conflict situations.

Dustin said he respects our decision but disagreed with it, then thanked me for the rationale.

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
hilary_cooley@fws.gov
406-243-4903

From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: Re: Matt email
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 10:02:19 AM

Ok, thanks for letting me know.

From: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 10:01 AM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: Matt email

Thanks for sending it.

Unrelated, but I am home with a sick kiddo today. I am working (trying to work) throughout, but if anything urgent comes up, feel free to call.

Thanks,

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 10:00 AM
To: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Matt email

Great. thank you

From: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 9:56 AM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: Matt email

Looks pretty good to me, thanks. Just a couple minor offerings:

Matt:

On Sunday, WS confirmed a grizzly bear killed a calf near the Sun River WMA (east front). The landowner said he chased the bear off the carcass Friday morning, and thought it was a collared bear. The bear FWP collared and we relocated last week after it had been found scavenging on a dead calf (WS was unsure of the cause of death, but determined it was not

killed by the bear) was seen in and around cows on Friday evening in this same area, but was chased off by the cows. However, GPS collar data from that bear indicated he had remained in the area, and was in the general vicinity when the calf was killed late Saturday/early Sunday. Based on that information combined with the fact that there are still very few bears up and about, the general feeling is the collared bear likely killed the calf. Ben gave FWP and WS permission to remove the bear. WS asked if they could use a helicopter to do the removal. We said no to helicopter, but approved WS to shoot or trap.

I received a call from Dustin Temple last night asking for our rationale for denying of helicopter. I said: 1) we don't use helicopters in WY or ID and this would be precedent setting; 2) a single calf depredation does not rise to the level that a helicopter removal is needed; 3) the depredation was in an area accessible by vehicle, again, making a helicopter a convenience vs. a "necessity"; 4) Our concern that if a helicopter is used in this situation, WS would be asking to use it every time.

He said staff relayed safety concerns about the removal. This is doubtful as no one brought this up to Ben; WS did ask about a helicopter, believing it was the most efficient way to find and remove the bear, but safety concerns were not part of that conversation. The bear has a collar and if a specific situation is unsafe, they should not put themselves in that situation. Wait for the bear to move to a better location. This is why we collar bears after conflict situations.

Dustin said he respects our decision but disagreed with it, then thanked me for the rationale.

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 9:06 AM
To: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Matt email

Hey Ben,
thoughts on this:

Matt:

On Sunday, WS confirmed a grizzly bear killed a calf near the Sun River WMA (east front). The collared bear that we relocated last week was in the area. We relocated the bear after it was

found feeding on a dead calf - it did not kill the calf. The collared bear had been observed near cattle on Friday and it is likely this bear killed the calf. Ben gave FWP and WS permission to remove the bear. WS asked if they could use a helicopter to do the removal. We said no to helicopter, but approved WS to shoot or trap.

I received a call from Dustin Temple last night asking for our rationale for denying of helicopter. I said: 1) we don't use helicopters in WY or ID and this would be precedent setting; 2) a single calf depredation does not rise to the level that a helicopter removal is needed; 3) If a helicopter is used in this situation, WS would be asking to use it every time.

He said staff relayed safety concerns about the removal. This is doubtful as noone brought this up to Ben. The bear has a collar and if a specific situation is unsafe, they should not put themselves in that situation. Wait for the bear to move to a better location. This is why we collar bears after conflict situations.

Dustin said he respects our decision but disagreed with it, then thanked me for the rationale.

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