

From: [Brian DeBolt](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Wyoming GBear removal on 4-15-24
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 1:48:28 PM
Attachments: [Bighorn Mtn. Area Grizzly Locations.pptx](#)

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On Tue, Apr 16, 2024 at 1:01 PM Brian DeBolt <brian.debolt@wyo.gov> wrote:

Ben,
see attached

On Tue, Apr 16, 2024 at 10:02 AM Brian DeBolt <brian.debolt@wyo.gov> wrote:

Ben,
I know you have been getting a lot of questions about the Department's press release on 4-15. The perception is that the WGFD pushed for removal of this bear primarily because of its location and that 1 injured cow isn't much of a justification.

I wanted to reiterate the facts and circumstances surrounding the justification, including the lack of adequate relocation sites, the very high potential for continued damage in the area composed entirely of private land used for livestock production, the fact that the young male bear is not a significant contributor to the health and productivity of the GYE grizzly bear population, and strong circumstantial evidence that this bear is a chronic livestock killer because there are missing domestic calves in the area and the multiple documented cattle depredations consistent with grizzly bear in the southern Bighorn mountains nearby last fall.

The primary reason for removal of this particular bear was not because of the location of the conflict, or simply the location of the grizzly bear. Last year, we documented the presence of a grizzly bear (probably this particular bear) nearby on two separate occasions, but did not initiate any control action because there was no documented conflict. Once the bear was implicated in significant damage, capture operations were initiated and ultimately resulted in the removal of the bear. This situation was evaluated based upon the specific facts and circumstances just as each grizzly bear management action has been handled for decades. Our management strategy in this case was handled routinely as all of our conflict investigations are, the uniqueness was only because it was in an unprecedented location.

The USFWS and the WGFD have a great relationship, and communication surrounding each management action is professional and expedient. I am reluctant to deviate from our current protocol because one press release was taken out of context.

Thanks and let me know if you have any questions,
Brian

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