



Trail News

February 15th, 2019

From the

Meeteetse Conservation District

www.meeteetse-conservery.net

P.O. Box 237 • 1906 State Street • Meeteetse, WY 82433

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MORE THAN 50 BEARS WERE CAPTURED BY WYOMING GAME AND FISH LAST YEAR

Almost half of all the grizzly bears trapped and euthanized in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem last year were in Park County, according to a new report. The 2018 report, compiled by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, said the agency captured a total of 53 grizzly bears in attempt to prevent or resolve conflicts; 29 of the now federally protected species were trapped in Park County. A total of 59 capture events were reported, as six bears were caught twice. Grizzlies were trapped, relocated or removed for a variety of reasons — from damaging apple trees, breaking into buildings, to killing a hunter. In early October, for instance, a grizzly got into a root cellar to eat some elk quarters, the report says; later in the month, a bear was trapped and released after getting into trash and climbing onto vehicles at a Park County ranch. The majority of grizzlies relocated or removed were done so for cattle depredation. Data shows more than half of animals trapped were “lethally removed.” Wyoming’s large carnivore team euthanized 32 bears, according to the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST). Last year, Montana lethally removed four Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzlies and Idaho removed two. Bears were removed from the population due to a

history of previous conflicts, a known history of close association with humans, or they were deemed unsuitable for release into the wild (e.g. orphaned cubs, poor physical condition, or human safety concern). “It’s important to note that we are still below mortality thresholds that demonstrate the population is fully recovered,” said Dan Thompson, large carnivore section supervisor for the Game and Fish. Last week, a coalition of environmental and animal rights groups including: the Sierra Club, The Human Society of United States, the Center for Biological Diversity, Natural Resources Defense Council, WildEarth Guardians and Wyoming Wildlife Advocates — called upon wildlife managers to re-examine ways to reduce conflicts and grizzly bear deaths. In a Thursday letter to members of the IGBST’s Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee, the groups said that nearly 250 bear deaths have been recorded since 2015, including a high of 65 last year. The groups called on wildlife managers to update a 2009 report that contained recommendations for reducing grizzly bear deaths and conflicts. While governments have instituted some valuable measures, “most if not all of the 2009 report’s common-sense measures have not been implemented,” says the groups’ letter. “And other measures which could prevent potential conflicts, particularly in regard to requiring non-lethal conflict prevention measures of livestock producers, were not raised.” With regard to hunting-related conflicts, “more could be done in regard to improving carcass management associated with elk hunting, requiring hunters to carry bear spray and have it immediately accessible, and placing higher emphasis on the effectiveness of bear spray in public messaging, to name just a few.” The environmental groups also note past recommendations that subdivisions regulate attractants — that is, things like storing garbage. It’s not unusual for a bear to be trapped multiple times. But multiple captures are taken into consideration into the conflict history of the individual when determining final management decisions. Three bears that were found south of Byron on Oct. 25 had been trapped and moved to Teton County just a month earlier. The bears were euthanized for “public safety concerns.” Grizzly bears in Wyoming were again listed as threatened on the Endangered Species List and placed back under federal protections on Sept. 24. All management actions since have been conducted in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A team uses a 100-page set of guidelines created more than 30 years ago for determining action in conflicts. Of the 32 bears that were removed from the Wyoming population last year, 17 were outside of the key grizzly bear habitat known as the Demographic Monitoring Area. The DMA is the boundary within which all demographic criteria for the Yellowstone grizzly bear population are currently monitored and evaluated and essentially encircles Yellowstone National Park. Grizzlies outside the DMA do not count toward the official population of 712 grizzly bears. The official number is derived by using a counting method (Chao 2) known to be extremely conservative. Some unofficial estimates claim **POWELL TRIBUNE** more than 1,200 grizzlies live in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

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NEW NRCS MULTI-COUNTY RANGELAND MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

Blaise Allen will replace Ray Gullion as the Multi-County Rangeland Management Specialist, working out of the Worland Field Office beginning February 19th. He will serve as a rangeland consultant and advisor to numerous ranchers, farmers and other agricultural producers in the Bighorn Basin. Blaise grew up in Meeteetse and graduated from Meeteetse high school in 2009 and was active in FFA, leading the natural resources team to a first place finish at the state competition. He received Associate's degrees in Range Management and Agroecology from Northwest College before earning a Bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming in 2013. Soon after, Blaise joined the Meeteetse Conservation District and was very successful serving as the Resource Specialist and Sage-grouse Initiative Range Conservationist before joining the NRCS as a Soil Conservationist out of the Greybull Field Office in 2015. Please join the Meeteetse Conservation District in proudly congratulating Blaise on his hard-earned and well-deserved promotion!

REDUCING THE RISK OF A CALF SCOURS OUTBREAK

Neonatal calf diarrhea (commonly called "calf scours") is one of the most costly disease entities in the beef cattle business. Fall-calving herds have the help of the hot, late summer/early fall sunshine to reduce the buildup and spread of the pathogens that cause calf diarrhea. However, whether you have spring or fall-calving cows (or both) there are some key management procedures that will reduce the likelihood of a scours outbreak in your calves. These procedures are meant to decrease the pathogen exposure to the newborn calf: **1.** Calve in clean and dry areas. **2.** Calve heifers earlier than the cow herd. **3.** Avoid congregating and creating muddy, pathogen infested areas in calving pastures. If possible, avoid loose hay feeding in calving pastures. If hay is fed, use bale rings or hay feeders and move feeders frequently. Move pairs to larger pastures promptly. Larger herds may want to study and employ the [Sandhills Calving System](#). **4.** Use biosecurity and biocontainment measures for all herd additions: **a.** Isolate, quarantine, and perform appropriate tests on all herd additions. **b.** Introduce pregnant herd additions at least 30 days prior to the start of calving season. This will allow time for exposure to new pathogens, antibody development and secretion of antibodies into the colostrum. **c.** Do not add calves to the herd until the youngest calf in the herd is over 30 days of age. Buying a calf at a livestock auction or from a dairy for a cow that has lost a calf can introduce diseases that your herd may not have immunity against. **5.** Isolation and treatment: **a.** Remove sick calves from the herd immediately. One sick calf can produce overwhelming pathogen exposure by shedding as many as 100 million bacteria or viruses per milliliter of feces (500 million bacteria and or viruses per teaspoon of feces). **b.** Visit with your local large animal veterinarian to determine best treatment options for the pathogens affecting your calves. **c.** Treating the sick calves should occur after handling the well calves. Clean and disinfect all equipment. Clothing, boots, gloves, etc. can be worn while treating sick calves and should not be worn when handling well calves. Compiled by Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Extension [NorthernAg-NET](#) and adapted from "Neonatal Calf Diarrhea Complex" by John Kirkpatrick, DVM



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Open House Season Setting Meeting in Meeteetse

Visit with local Game and Fish personnel about the 2019 hunting season recommendations for big game, small game and upland game in the Bighorn Basin. 6-8 p.m. at the Meeteetse Conservation District "Ferret Den" in Meeteetse 1906 State Street.

Meeteetse Temperature Last 14 Days

