

Appendix G – Conservation Strategy Nuisance Bear Standards³⁶

The focus and intent of nuisance grizzly bear management inside and outside the PCA are predicated on the strategies and actions to prevent grizzly bear/human conflicts. It is recognized that active management aimed at individual nuisance bears will be required in both areas. Management actions outside the PCA will be implemented according to state management plans in coordination with landowners and land management agencies. These actions will be compatible with grizzly bear population management objectives for each state for the areas outside the PCA.

General Criteria

Location, cause of incident, severity of incident, history of bear, health/age/sex of bear, and demographic characteristics of animals involved will all be considered in any relocation or removal. Removal of nuisance bears will be carefully considered and consistent with mortality limits for the GYA as described in the Conservation Strategy. Recognizing that conservation of female bears is essential to maintenance of a grizzly population, removal of nuisance females will be minimized.

Within the Primary Conservation Area

Within the PCA, management of nuisance bears will be addressed according to the following standards:

- Bears displaying food conditioning and/or habituation may be either relocated or removed based on specific details of the incident. State wildlife agencies, following consultation with other appropriate management authorities, and national parks will make this judgment after considering the cause, location, and severity of the incident or incidents.
- Bears may be relocated as many times as judged prudent by management authorities. No bear may be removed for any offense, other than unnatural aggression, without at least one relocation unless representatives of affected agencies document the reason in writing. All relocations outside the PCA will be governed by state management plans.
- Bears may be preemptively moved when they are in areas where they are likely to come into conflicts with site-specific human activities, but only as a last resort. Such preemptive moves will not count against the bear as nuisance moves.
- Bears preying on lawfully present livestock (cows, domestic sheep, horses, goats, llamas, etc.) on public lands will be managed according to the following criteria:
 - No grizzly bear involved in livestock depredations inside the PCA shall be removed unless it has been relocated at least one time and continues to cause livestock depredations. This does not apply to depredations occurring in sheep allotments inside the PCA in areas that were designated Management Situation 1³⁷ under the Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines (IGBC 1986).
 - Grizzly bears will not be removed or relocated from sheep allotments on federal land inside the PCA in areas in areas that were designated Management Situation 1 under the Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines (IGBC 1986).
- Before any removal, except in cases of human safety, management authorities will consult by telephone or in person to judge the adequacy of the reason for removal.
- Bears displaying natural aggression are not to be removed, even if the aggression results in human injury or death, unless it is the judgment of management authorities that the particular circumstances warrant removal.
- Bears displaying unnatural aggression will be removed from the population.
- Decisions based on criteria for relocation and removal inside the PCA for management of nuisance bears in the Conservation Strategy and best biological judgment of authorities.

³⁶ Conservation Strategy Nuisance Bear Standards, pages 59 and 60.

³⁷ Management Situation 1 areas are described in forest plans.

- Authorized National Park Service authorities will implement removals and relocations within YNP and GTNP.
- Authorized state authorities outside YNP and GTNP will implement other removals and relocations.
- State wildlife agencies in coordination with the appropriate federal agencies will predetermine adequate and available sites for relocations. Relocation sites should be agreed upon before the need for relocation occurs. In order to deal with problem bears more efficiently, managers should have full access to relocation sites without having to conduct individual consultation for each relocation.
- Livestock damage prevention and compensation are addressed in individual state management plans.
- Management of all nuisance bear situations will emphasize removal of the human cause of the conflict, when possible, or management and education actions to limit such conflicts. Relocation and removal of grizzly bears may occur if the above actions are not successful.

Specific Criteria for Removals

Captured grizzly bears identified for removal may be given to public research institutions or public zoological parks for appropriate non-release educational or scientific purposes as per regulations of states and national parks. Grizzly bears not suitable for release, research, or educational purposes will be removed as described in appropriate state management plans or in compliance with national park rules and regulations.

Outside of national parks, individual nuisance bears deemed appropriate for removal may be taken by a legal hunter in compliance with rules and regulations promulgated by the appropriate wildlife agency commission, as long as such taking is in compliance with existing state and federal laws, and as long as mortality limits specified for the GYA as described in this Conservation Strategy are not exceeded. This could include licensed hunters or property owners or their agents who have obtained appropriate permits from the state. Licensed hunters will be allowed to possess bear parts for bears that are legally harvested under a state permit.

Monitoring Protocol

All nuisance bear control actions, and grizzly bear/human and grizzly bear/livestock conflicts will be summarized annually in the Annual Report of the IGBST. Most conflicts are due to availability of human foods, human developments, or livestock depredations in occupied grizzly bear habitat. This report will detail the cause and location of each conflict and management action and display an annual spatial distribution of conflicts that can be used by managers to identify where problems occur and to compare trends in locations, sources, landownership, and types of conflicts.