



WGFD

Conserving Wildlife, Serving People

Cody Regional Office
2820 State Highway 120
Cody, WY 82414

Phone: (307) 527-7322 ext. *817 • Fax: (307) 587-5430
<http://gf.state.wy.us>

News Release

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Contact: Mark Gocke
mark.gocke@wgf.state.wy.us

GRIZZLY BEAR RELOCATED

Cody -The Wyoming Game and Fish Department trapped and relocated an adult male grizzly bear on November 4, 2011.

The bear was captured because it was frequenting a ranch east of the Absaroka Front north of Cody, WY in what would not be considered typical grizzly bear habitat. In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, the bear was moved to preempt any conflicts with people, property, or livestock.

The bear was released in the Cascade Creek drainage approximately 10 miles west of Flagg Ranch and approximately 10 miles east of the Idaho-Wyoming state line. The release site is located within currently occupied grizzly bear habitat and grizzly bears are present throughout the area. Bears are capable of moving long distances over a short time period and a relocated bear is not expected to remain near the release site.

Grizzly bear relocation is a management tool afforded bear management personnel to minimize conflicts between humans and grizzlies. The decision to relocate and the selection of a relocation site is made taking into consideration the age, sex, and type of conflict the bear was involved in. Grizzly bears are listed as “Threatened” under the Endangered Species Act, therefore consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the appropriate land management agency is also conducted to minimize the chance of future conflicts and maximize the survival potential of the relocated grizzlies. Bears are relocated in accordance with federal law and regulation. When selecting a relocation site, the Department makes every consideration to minimize potential conflicts with livestock and people.

Bears can create conflicts after they have obtained food rewards. The Department continues to stress the importance of keeping all attractants (food items, horse feeds, bird seed and others) unavailable to bears. Reducing attractants reduces human-bear conflicts.

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