

Subj: **Re[2]: Griz Mortalities final OP ED**
Date: 10/14/99 9:18:14 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: liz.howell@sfsierra.sierraclub.org
To: LLWillcox@aol.com

Here's what was in the CST on Saturday Oct 9, 1999 as an op ed. I thought I sent it to David but I typed it up and maybe forgot to email it... Busy gal that I am. Thanks for the reminder. Liz

Bear with us, hunters
Lloyd Dorsey
PERSPECTIVE

For at least the past two years in Wyoming, opening week of hunting season has been hell on grizzly bears.

And as the hunting seasons progress, some big game hunters are continuing to kill the protected bears, and the Wyoming Wildlife Federation feels obligated to get the word out to avoid any more of these incidents.

If the great bear is ever to recover from its threatened species, and be delisted, hunters have to learn proper behavior. Evidently, some hunters aren't paying attention to the lessons. The overall pattern is obvious for some six years now: When big game hunters go to the world-class wild country in northwestern Wyoming to pursue their quarry, some of those hunters have encounters that result in a dead bear or bears. Conversely, summer recreationists in this same country over this same period encounter bears numerous times but no bears have been known to be killed by those wildlands users.

Another fact that emerges from the trend is that in nearly all known incidents during these same years, it is Wyoming resident hunters and outfitters that are involved in these incidents. Non-resident hunters are nearly absent from the data.

There is a lot of information available on how to act when a human encounters a grizzly. Using bear deterrent spray saves human lives and bears.

Keeping clean camps, storing food, trophy game heads, and carcasses properly out of reach of bears, camping away from your camp kitchen are just part of the formula of successful hunting in grizzly country.

The Wyoming Wildlife Federation, along with other area conservation groups, helps the Wyoming Game and fish sponsor "Living in Bear Country Workshops" each summer to deliver this important message to the public.

Yet since 1994, Wyoming hunting guides and hunters have been largely responsible for the deaths of at least 27 grizzlies. (Bear cubs were considered mortalities when their mother was shot and killed). So far during this 1999 hunting season, three known incidents involving Wyoming hunters or guides have resulted in five dead grizzlies, including two cubs who will unlikely survive the upcoming winter.

Investigations are still proceeding in at least two of the incidents, and the public needs to know how the agencies are dealing with these incidents. In the past six seasons, despite 27 hunter-caused dead grizzlies in Wyoming, no one has been prosecuted

for a crime.

Hunters and outfitters need to act responsibly in grizzly country, and Forest and wildlife managers are equally responsible for ensuring that outfitters and hunters are educated in proper conduct. The Wyoming Wildlife Federation supports delisting of the grizzly when appropriate habitat protection and human behavior ensure the survival of the magnificent grizzly.

Lloyd Dorsey is community organizer of the Jackson Field Office of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation and has lived and recreated in grizzly country for over 25 years. The WWF is Wyoming's oldest and largest conservation and sporting organization, since 1937.

Reply Separator

Subject: Re: Griz Mortalities DRAFT OP ED
Author: <LLWillcox@aol.com > at internet
Date: 10/14/99 2:36 AM

Hi Liz, is this in the pipeline at the CST? L

Headers

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From: <liz.howell@sfsierra.sierraclub.org>
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