

From: Montana FWP <montanafwp@announcements.mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 12:18 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2 grizzly bears euthanized in West Yellowstone, Kayak with mussels stopped in Nashua



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

2 grizzly bears euthanized after conflicts in West Yellowstone

Two grizzly bears have been euthanized after multiple conflicts in campsites and at residences near West Yellowstone.

Conflicts with the two subadult grizzlies — a male and a female — began in 2019. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks staff worked to haze the bears then, and at the time, the efforts to move them away from residential areas was thought to be successful.

Reports of problems with these bears started again on Aug. 5, and by the time the bears were last captured on Sept. 1, there were 15 reports of two bears being in campgrounds at night, inside porches and on steps, where they were able to access garbage and dog food.

FWP bear specialists set cameras and noise alarms at two sites where the bears gained access to garbage. When those hazing efforts were unsuccessful, the specialists set traps for the bears on Aug. 15, and both were captured a day later. FWP, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the U.S. Forest Service agreed to relocate and release the bears due to their young age and because this was their first time being captured. Both bears were fitted with ear tags and satellite collars.

The bears then returned to the area where the conflicts had occurred previously, and on Aug. 25, the problems resumed, including the bears getting into an occupied tent, as well as a storage compartment on an RV.

FWP captured both bears again on Sept. 1.

Due to the chronic conflicts and concerns for human safety, the bear were euthanized in consultation with the USFWS.

“When garbage and other attractants are left unsecured and available to bears, human safety becomes a huge concern, and bear mortalities are the unfortunate result. This is why we ask people to be so careful with food, garbage, and similar

items. It really requires just a little effort,” said Mark Deleray, FWP’s regional supervisor in southwest Montana.

Grizzly bears in the lower-48 states are currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Management authority for grizzlies rests with the USFWS, working closely with FWP, Wildlife Services, the Forest Service and Tribal governments. This collaboration happens through the [Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee](#) (IGBC).

Several grizzly bear recovery areas exist in or near Montana, including the Selkirk, Cabinet-Yaak, Northern Continental Divide, Bitterroot and Greater Yellowstone ecosystems.

Grizzly bear populations are becoming denser and more widespread in Montana, increasing the likelihood that residents and recreationists will encounter them in new places each year. Being prepared

for such encounters and keeping attractants secured is more important than ever, both to keep people and property safe and to cultivate healthy bear behavior.

Forest Service food storage orders require all unattended food, garbage and attractants to be stored in at least one of the following ways:

- In hard-sided vehicles.
- In locked [IGBC-approved bear-resistant products](#), which include certain electric fencing.
- Hung at least 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet away from a tree or pole, out of the reach of wildlife.

In addition to following food storage orders, hunters and other recreationists should take further precautions when in bear country:

- Be aware of your surroundings and look for bear sign.
- Carry and know how to use bear spray.
- Travel in groups and make noise whenever possible to avoid surprising a bear.
- Stay away from animal carcasses.
- Anyone moving quickly (i.e. mountain bikers, trail runners) is at a higher risk of surprising a bear.
- Where possible, avoid traveling at night, dawn or dusk.
- If you encounter a bear, never run away.

For more information on avoiding negative encounters with bears, visit igbconline.org/bear-safety.

Kayak with mussels stopped in Nashua

Montana’s watercraft inspectors intercepted the 27th mussel-fouled vessel for the year. Last Sunday, vacationers traveling from Michigan to Glacier National Park with a kayak strapped on their van stopped at Nashua inspection station where inspectors found a zebra mussel attached to the kayak’s hull. The kayak had last been in

Michigan's Lake Cadillac, a known mussel-infested waterbody. Inspectors thoroughly decontaminated the kayak before sending the vacationers on their way .

The Nashua watercraft inspection station is managed by the McCone Conservation District.

"Our inspectors work hard at their job" said Diane Black, the district administrator. "We want to protect our water resources from dangerous invasive species and remind everyone to clean, drain and dry their boats."

Montana has inspected over 115,000 vessels so far this season, far surpassing last year's total number of inspections.

"Non-motorized boats are at risk of transporting aquatic invasive species" said AIS Bureau Chief Tom Woolf. "Even boats traveling between waters in Montana can transport invasive snails or weeds."

Watercraft owners must stop at ALL open inspection stations. Watercraft coming into Montana from out of state must be inspected prior to launching. Non-residents bringing watercraft from out of state, both motorized and non-motorized, must purchase a Vessel AIS Prevention Pass before launching on state waters. The Vessel AIS Prevention Pass is valid until the end of the year and can be purchased at any FWP office or [online](#).

To learn more, go to CleanDrainDryMT.com or call the FWP Aquatic Invasive Species Bureau at 406-444-2440.

HUNTING NEWS

FISHING NEWS

OUTDOOR REPORTS



This email was sent to commissioners@rc.mt.gov using GovDelivery, on behalf of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue, P.O. Box 200701 · Helena, MT 59620-0701 · (406) 444-2535

powered by
govDELIVERY
get the word out.

[Manage My Subscriptions](#) | [One-Click Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you believe the email to be malicious and/or phishing email, please use the **Phish Alert** button.