

# Grizzly Bear Relocation FAQs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - April 2022



## What criteria determines when a bear gets relocated?

- A grizzly bear is eligible for relocation if they are involved in a conflict, or to prevent them from becoming involved in a conflict. Bears may also be relocated if they have been incidentally caught in other situations, such as wolf traps. Relocation is just one tool available to wildlife managers. Other options include conflict prevention, such as installing electric fences, using bear resistant trash cans, and hazing. Relocation is not an eligible management tool for grizzly bears that are considered a threat to human safety; bears posing a threat to human safety would not be relocated.

## How are the relocation sites determined?

- Relocation sites are established in remote areas away from homes and concentrated human use. When a bear is captured, bear managers consult with staff from the land management agency to determine which relocation site is most suitable for the bear, considering age/sex of bear, conflict history, and current human use at available relocation sites. On-site or near-site release may be appropriate under certain circumstances, such as when a bear is captured for research purposes, or captured during management actions and considered “non-target”, or categorized as “pre-emptive”, and certain emergency situations involving grizzly bear family groups.

## What happens if a relocated bear gets into conflict again?

- The IGBC Guidelines outlines descriptions and recommendations for control actions based on type of offense, condition, sex, age of the bear, and the number of times the bear has committed the offense.

## Do bears return to the site where they were captured at?

- Relocation is one of several options that bear managers use to help prevent further conflict. Other tools such as electric fencing work great for bears that have broken into grain bins, chicken coops, livestock piles, etc. Cleaning up attractants at the capture site, in order to prevent repeat problems, is important to the success of preventative actions. However, bears do sometimes return to the site.

## Does the Service track relocated bears?

- Every grizzly bear that is captured for relocation receives a collar. The tracking capabilities of the collars vary; most are radio collars that allow for on-the-ground triangulation and location approximation. Wildlife managers do not have access to ‘live’ data showing current location information.

#### Do female grizzly bears with cubs get relocated together?

- This will depend on the situation, location where the conflict occurred, and the age of the cubs at time of relocation. Most female bears with cubs will be relocated together, however, if this is a female's third conflict it is possible that only the cubs would be relocated.

#### Are relocated bears a threat to human safety?

- No, grizzly bears that are relocated are not considered a threat to human safety any more than other grizzly bears. Wildlife managers will not relocate a bear that is considered a threat to humans. This does not mean any bears are "safe" to interact with, the public should continue to follow [commonsense bear safety guidelines](#) to avoid encounters with any grizzly bears – relocated or not.

#### How far does a bear get relocated?

- This depends on the situation, location of conflict, nature of conflict, and the sex/age of bear, and availability of suitable relocation sites. For example, we try to move depredating bears far from livestock [conflicts](#).

#### Where is more information available?

- More information can be found online from [the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee](#) as well as the [species page from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#).
- Additionally, if you have more questions please contact [XXX]

**Commented [JKF1]:** Suggestion: Maybe we need more information here. Debunk the perception that bears are being moved o other recovery zones.