



WILDLIFE CONFLICT RESOLUTION

LIMA, MT

West Fork Madison Grazing Allotment Agreement

Where conflicts between livestock and wildlife are prolonged and intractable, the National Wildlife Federation believes that public land grazing agreements can provide an equitable solution for ranchers and wildlife interests. In coordination with federal land managers, we negotiate with livestock ranchers to either retire public land livestock grazing allotments or develop management agreements that eliminate chronic conflict with wildlife, especially grizzly bears, wolves, bison and bighorn sheep. This market-based approach recognizes the economic value of public land livestock grazing permits and fairly compensates ranchers for their public land grazing leases. This approach has proven a successful model across the west in resolving conflicts between livestock and at-risk wildlife.

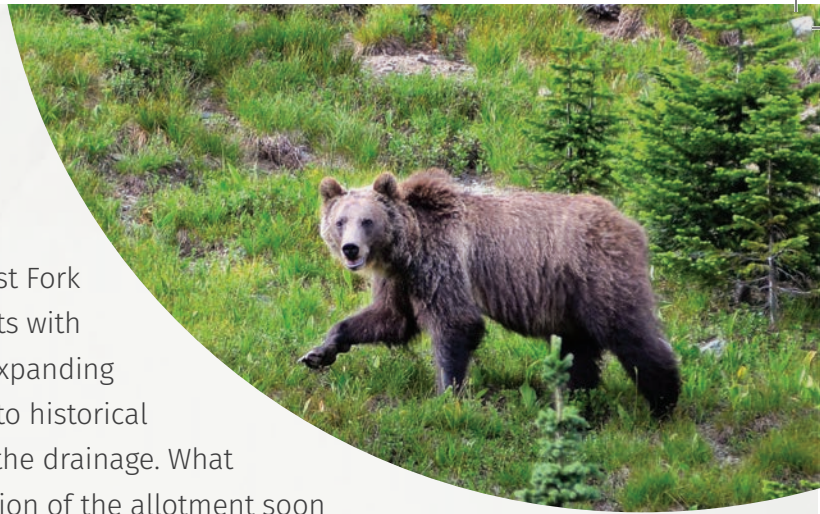
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The Opportunity

For nearly five years NWF has been working in the West Fork of the Madison to address chronic grizzly bear conflicts with cattle. The West Fork serves as a critical corridor for expanding grizzly populations West of Yellowstone Park, yet due to historical conflict, bears have been relocated or removed from the drainage. What first began as an attempt to retire grazing from a portion of the allotment soon transformed into a new model in addressing conflicts on public land grazing allotments. NWF partnered with a conservation-minded ranch in purchasing a controlling portion of the West Fork grazing permit. NWF then negotiated a 12-year deal with the ranch in the form of a forgivable loan if they use non-lethal management strategies in dealing with grizzly conflicts in the West Fork. This market-based solution incentivizes the ranch to use non-lethal management techniques and actively manage their livestock to avoid conflicts. If successful this agreement could serve as a new model for addressing conflicts on public lands across the West.



WHERE:

Gravelly Range, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Montana

NEAREST TOWN:

Lima, MT

CONFLICT:

Chronic grizzly bear depredation on domestic livestock

ACRES:

25,000

TOTAL ESTIMATED PRICE:

\$300,000

NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK:

717 (June 1- October 31)

COMPLETION OF AGREEMENT:

August 2022

TERM OF AGREEMENT:

12 years/ non-lethal management of grizzly bears / annual monitoring / low-stress livestock handling/ exit allotment if conflicts occur/ will not seek additional compensation for depredations should they occur

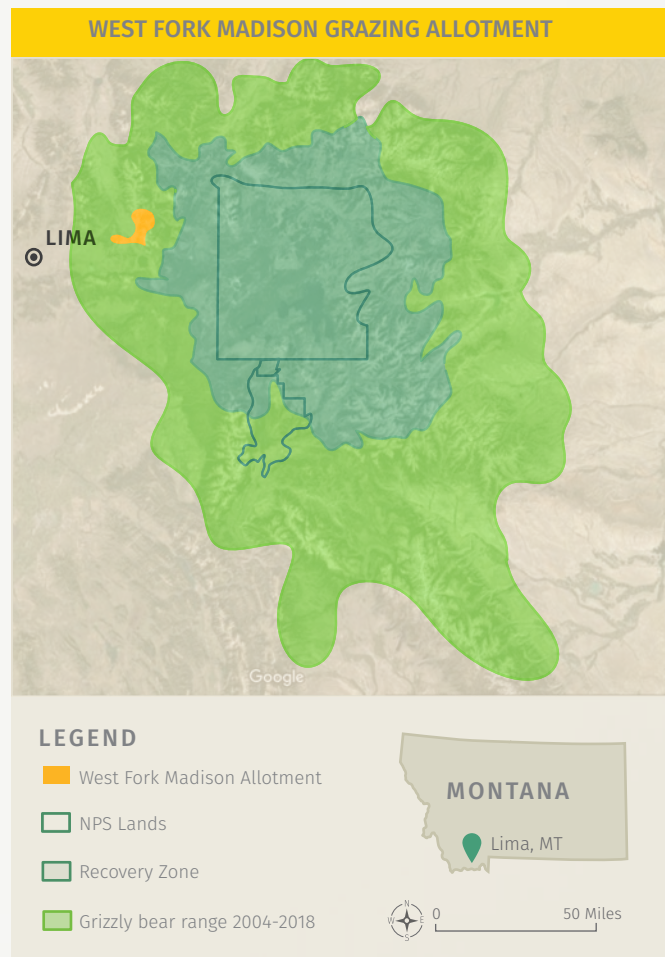


PHOTO CREDITS
Page 1: Landscape (Kit Fisher); Rancher with livestock (Kit Fisher);