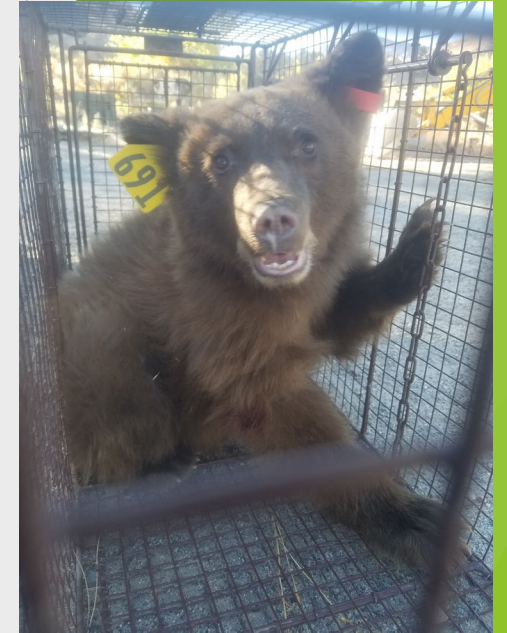


Human-Wildlife Conflict in Mono County

By Daniel Taylor



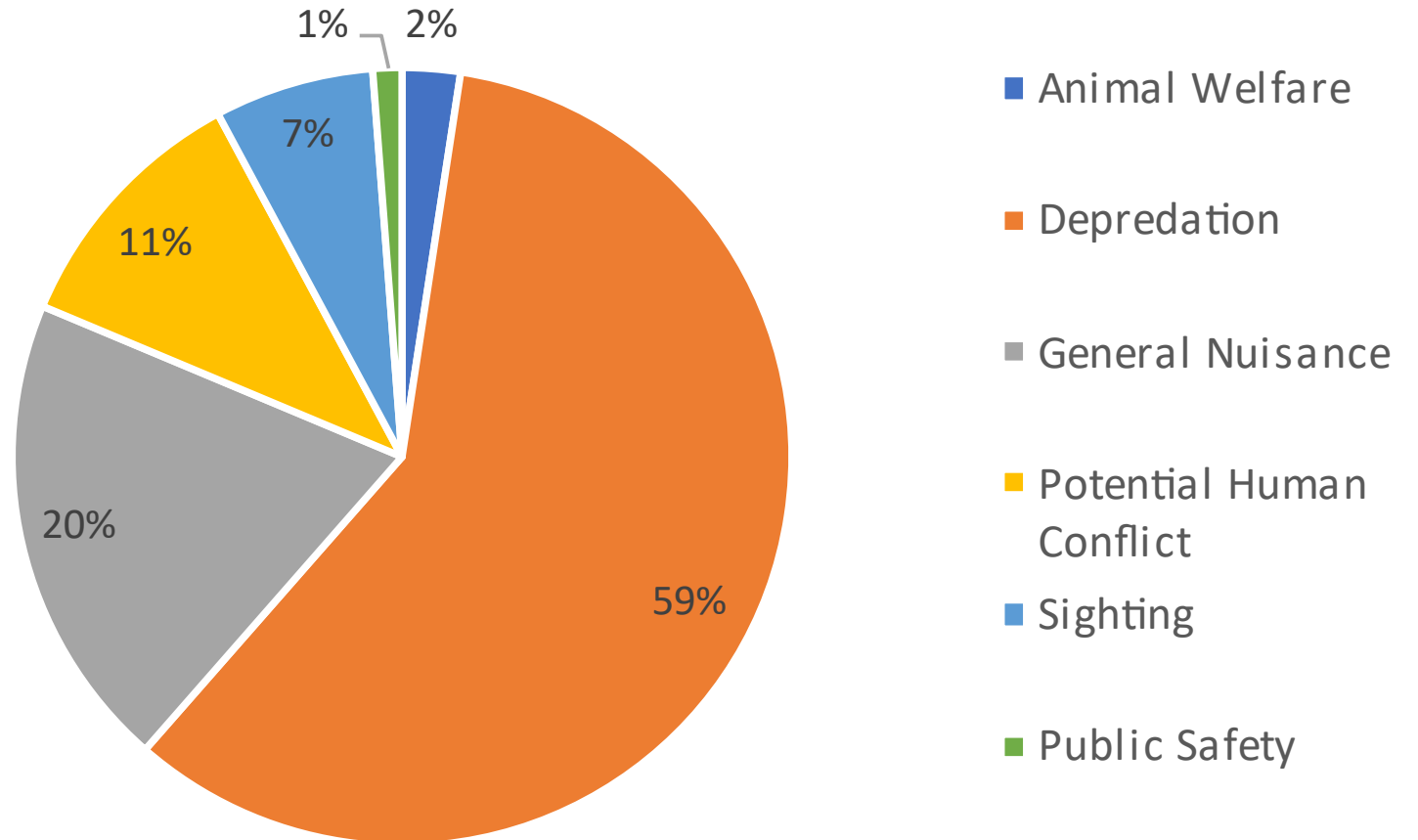
Wildlife Incident Reporting (WIR) System: wildlife.ca.gov/WIR



Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) Categories

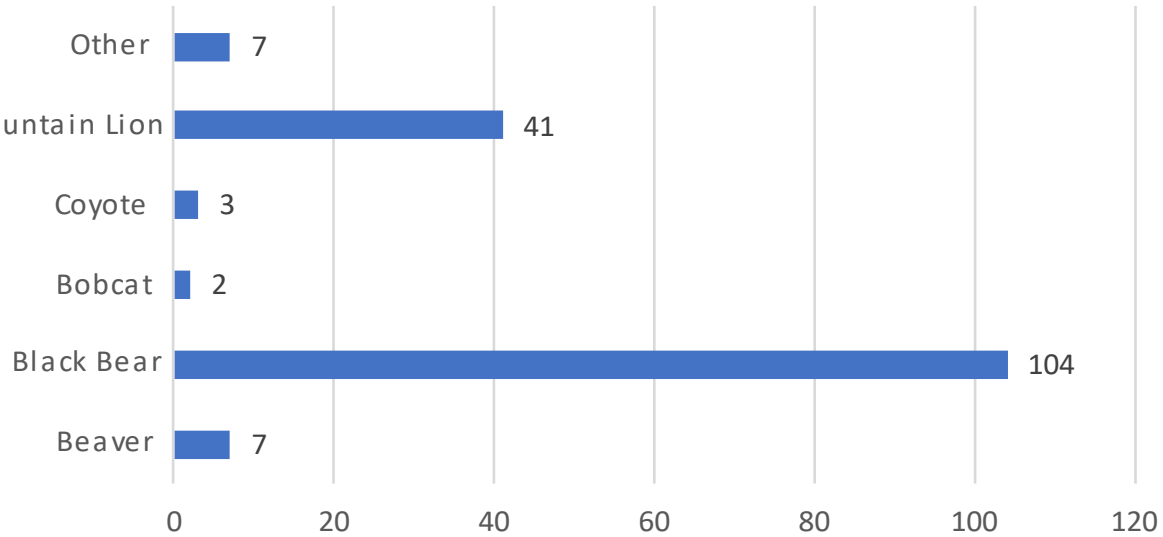
- CDFW Wildlife Incident Reporting (WIR) system (2017-2022)

Incident Response Types in Mono County (2017-2022)

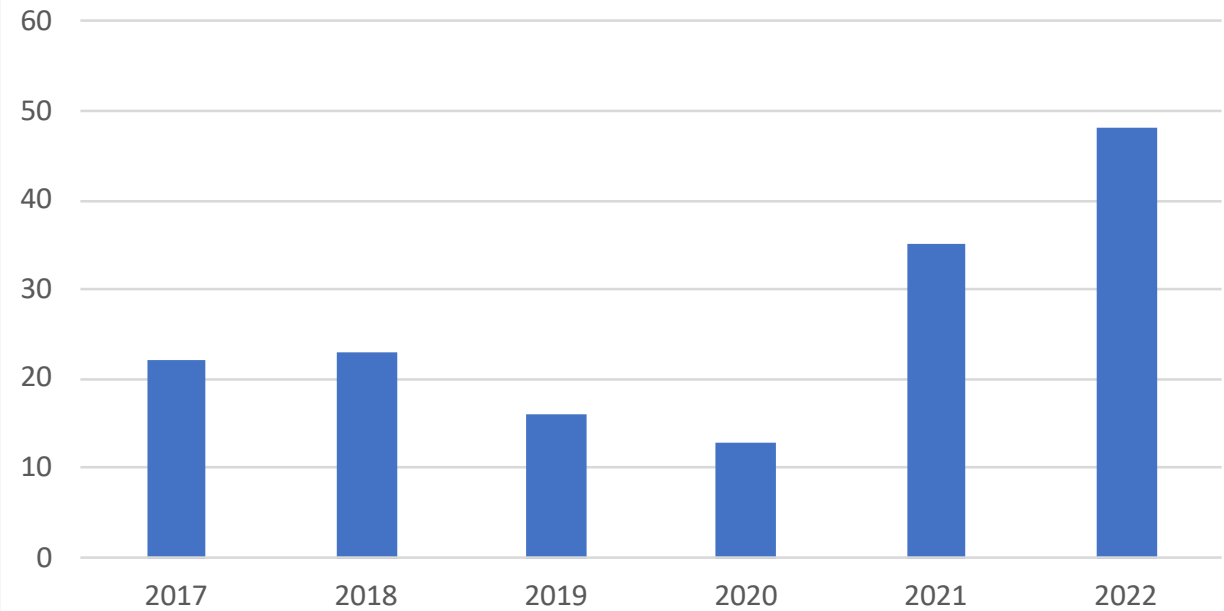


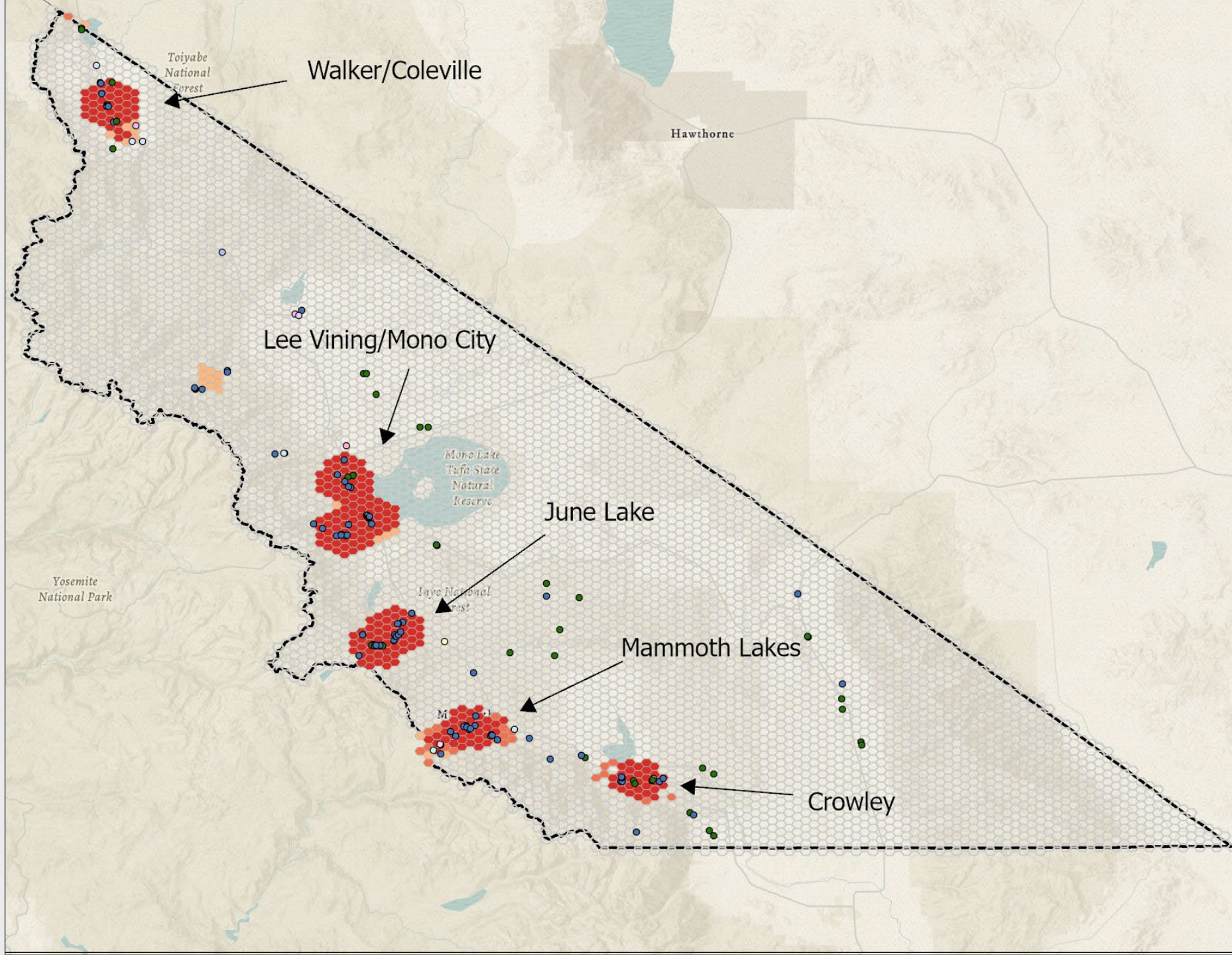
HWC Patterns and Trends in Mono County

Number of WIR Reports in Mono County by Species (2017-2022)



Number of WIR Reports in Mono County by Year







CDFW Black Bear Policy



Conflict Bear Management

What is a “Conflict” Bear?

- “A bear that requires action by the Department or the public due to its behavior or its situation”
- Includes “No Harm/No Foul”, “Habituated”, “Depredation”, and “Public Safety” bears
- Type of conflict will influence management response for individual bear
- Bears usually avoid people and direct interactions - but they will seek food, water, shelter in urban/suburban areas



“No Harm/No Foul Bear”

- “Strayed into an area where an incident could occur, **has not engaged in nuisance activity or caused property damage**, and may require assistance to return to nearby suitable habitat”
- **Wrong place, wrong time**
 - “Food not confrontation”
 - Typically juvenile males
- **Give space** and time to leave
- **Haze or move** to nearest habitat



“Habituated Bear”



- “Shows **little to no overt reaction to people** as a result of being repeatedly exposed to anthropogenic stimuli without substantial consequence.”
- General nuisance - but **no property damage or aggression** towards a human
- Recommend removing or restricting access to attractants

“Depredation Bear”

- “Threatening to damage, or destroy, **property**”
- **Typical hazing** no longer effective
- Recommend more advanced deterrents and hazing
- Depredation permits can be requested/issued
 - Landowner takes bear
 - Strict firearms ordinances



“Public Safety Bear”



- “Demonstrating aggressive action that has resulted in physical contact with a human; or a bear exhibiting an **immediate threat** to public health and safety, given the totality of the circumstances.”
- **Immediate threat** = bear exhibits one or more aggressive behaviors directed toward a person
- **Only Law Enforcement personnel determine immediate threat (public safety incidents)**

CDFW Mountain Lion Policy

- **No Harm/No Foul:** Has not engaged in nuisance activity or caused property damage
- **Depredation:** Threatening to damage or destroy property. (Typically, livestock or domestic pets)
- **Public Safety:** Demonstrating aggressive action that has resulted in physical contact with a human; or exhibiting an immediate threat to public health and safety



Damages Management: 3 Step Process

- Step 1: **Managing the Site**
 - Securing/removing food attractants
 - Using Deterrents
- Step 2: **Managing the Animal**
 - Provide a negative association through hazing techniques
- Step 3: **Managing the Conflict**
 - Removal of the animal from the population



Step 1: Managing the Site

- Bird feeders →
- Pet food/water →
- Livestock →
- Fruit trees →
- Gardens →
- BBQs →
- Composting →
- Beehives →
- Around home →
- Trash →
- Remove or use in winter only
- Keep and provide inside
- Provide fully enclosed shelter structures
- Remove fallen fruit, harvest regularly
- Electric fencing
- Clean regularly
- Try community composting
- Electric fencing
- Lock windows/doors, use deterrents
- Use bear-resistant trash cans and clean

Deterrents - Scaring is Caring!

- **Deterrents:** similar to “repellents”; devices or other methods that keep animals away from certain objects, areas, people, plants, or other animals
- Sensory items that discourage wildlife through sight, sound, smell, touch, or a combination of these things



Step 2: Managing the Animal

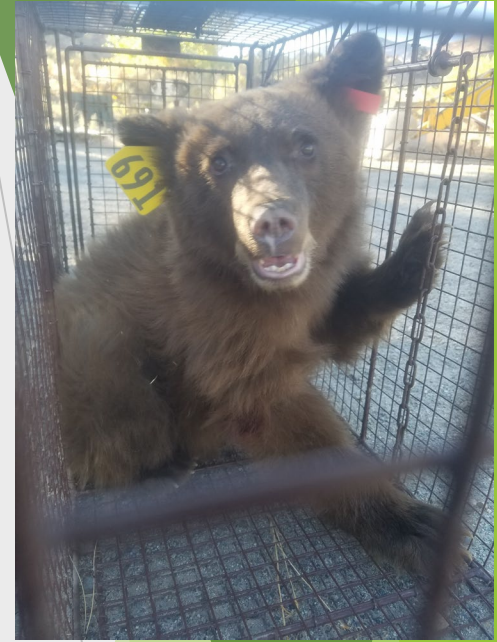
Hazing - Scarring is Caring!

- Provide negative association to human development using approved non-lethal hazing techniques which include:
 - a. Pursuit with ATV or other type of motorized vehicle
 - b. Pursuit with dogs
 - c. Use of non-lethal ammunition (rubber bullets, cracker shells, bean bag rounds, paintball guns)



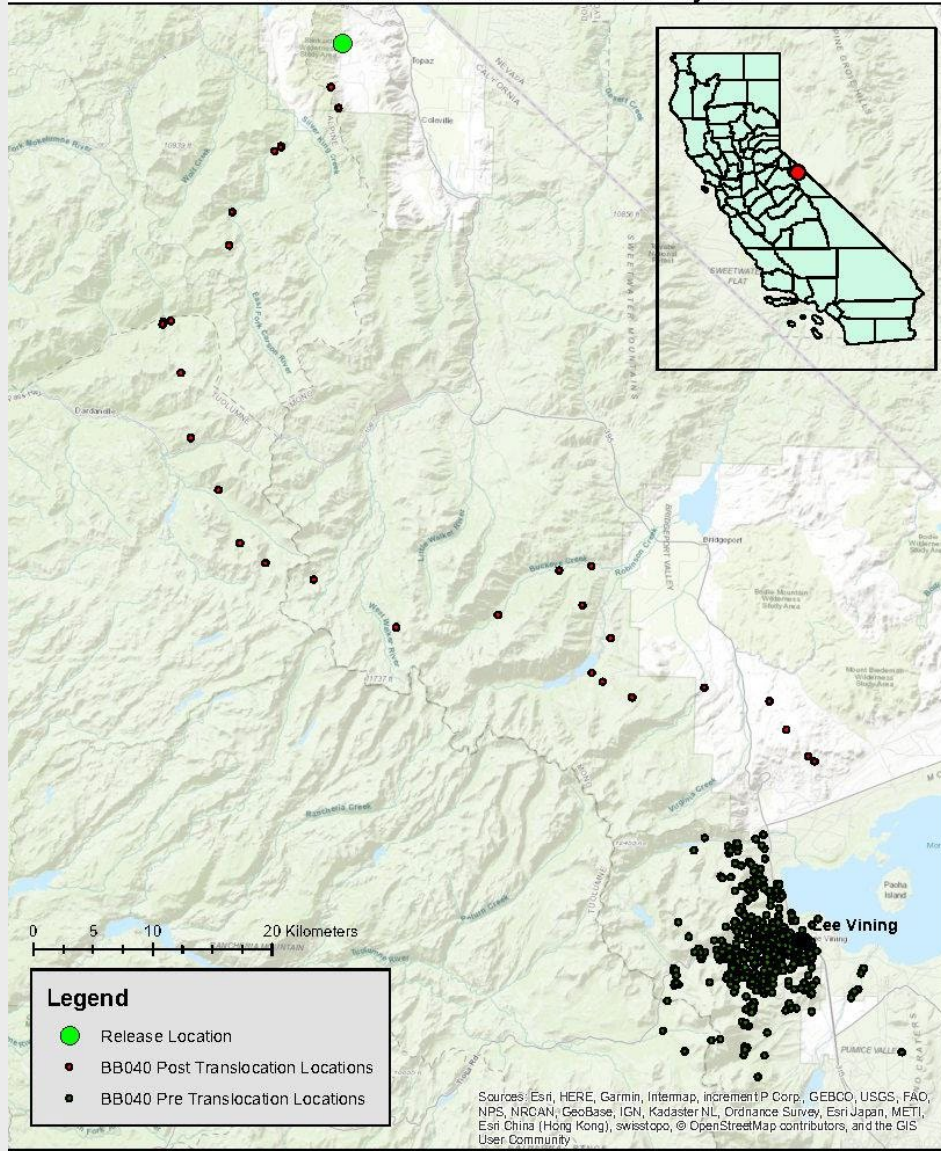
Step 3: Managing the Conflict

If all non-lethal corrective actions have been exhausted, the decision to remove the bear from the population (i.e., lethally taken, relocated, or captured for long-term captivity) shall be made by the CDFW Regional Manager or Response Guidance Team.



The Problem(s) with Relocation...

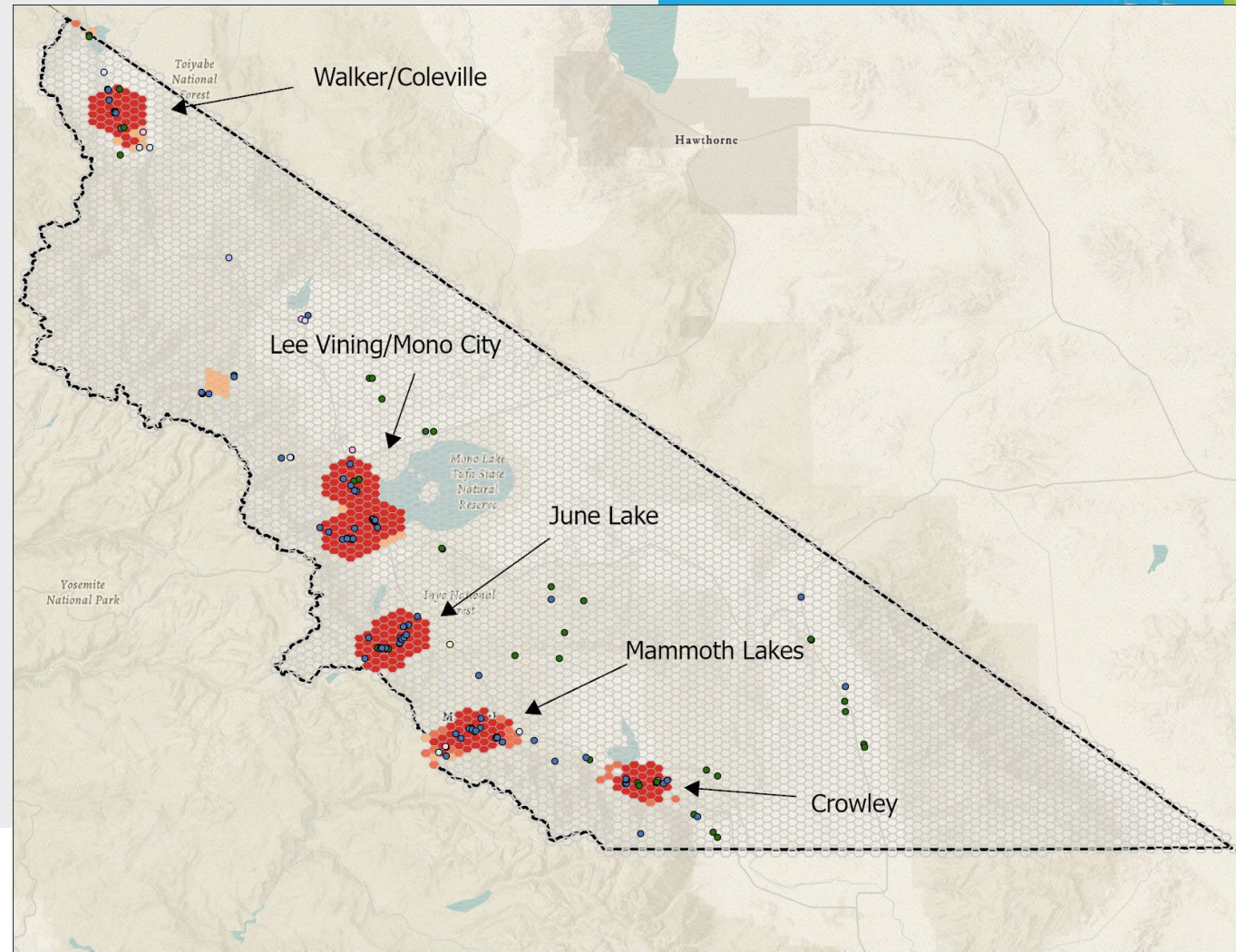
BB040 Movement Post-Translocation
Eastern Sierra Black Bear Project



- Will usually return to the same place (or be killed trying to)
- Moves the “problem bear” to another area
- Opens up space for another bear to take its place
- Potential to spread disease
- Does not fix the root of the problem: **food and other attractants will continue to attract bears!**

What can you do to help?

- Increased messaging/signage/social media presence about how to coexist with wildlife
- Reporting incidents
- Considerations for the future
 - Public Volunteer Programs?
 - County Trash Ordinance?



WILDLIFEWATCH

A Leadership Response to Human-Wildlife Interactions

Wildlife Belongs to Each of Us

- Take simple steps to prevent conflicts:
 - ✓ Manage the habitat around your home
 - ✓ Protect yourself, pets, and livestock
 - ✓ Remove or prevent access to attractants
 - ✓ Use deterrents/haze where appropriate
- CDFW is tasked with managing wildlife, but it's up to each of us to help prevent conflicts!



Questions?

