Editorial Board 12 March 2023

*Conservation Science and Practice*

Dear Editor:

On behalf of my co-authors, I am pleased to submit the manuscript *Unsecured attractants, collisions, and high mortality strain coexistence between grizzly bears and people in the Elk Valley, southeast British Columbia* for your consideration for publication as a Contributed Paper in Conservation Science and Practice.

Wildlife professionals have dedicated whole careers to sustaining and recovering grizzly bears in North America following the species’ massive range contraction in the 19th and 20th centuries. Decades of concerted efforts have brought about many successes that are now being realized through increasing populations and range expansion in many areas. Grizzly bears now live in areas they haven’t been for 100 years, often places where people and bears overlap, ushering in a new era of conservation focus—how can we promote human-bear coexistence as these bears expand? In many areas, such as British Columbia, wildlife professionals are switching their attention to resolving the increasing complaints of human-bear conflicts while also balancing the need to sustain grizzly bears in these landscapes.

Our manuscript provides insight into this coexistence conundrum using grizzly bear demography, behavior, and conflict reports in a conflict hotspot in British Columbia where 100 grizzly bear live amongst 1000’s of people. We leverage an extensive radiocollar and genetic tagging dataset of >300 grizzly bears to provide strong inference on what is and isn’t working in this landscape for both bears and people, and use this evidence to recommend actionable solutions.

Our paper exposes a striking paradox of coexistence – the mobility of brown bears through the landscape condemns individual animals to death by people yet rescues populations from extirpation. These insights will be of broad interest to researchers working on connectivity, human-wildlife conflict, demography, and those working in carnivore coexistence frontiers (e.g., Yellowstone National Park or the Northern Cascades, USA). In addition, this work will be of interest to the media and public, given that bear conflicts with people generate more mass media coverage than those with any other terrestrial or aquatic predator.

Thank you for considering our work and we look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,



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