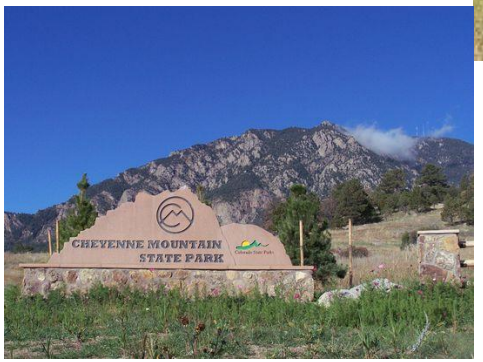
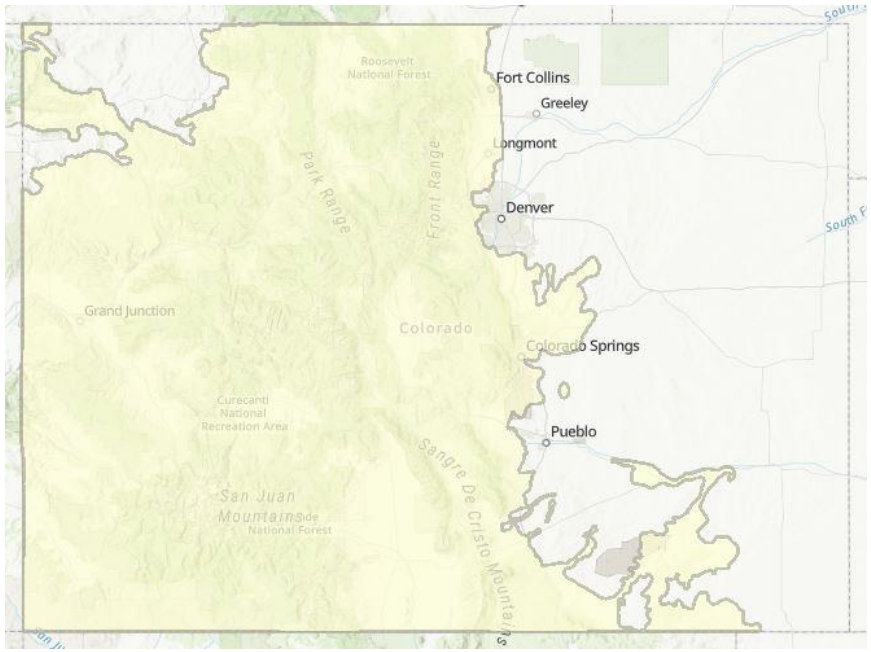
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

- State agency responsible for managing Colorado's 960 species of wildlife
- More than 350 State Wildlife Areas
- 41 State Parks



Colorado Bear Population

- Colorado only has Black Bears
  - Statewide population estimate approximately 17,000-20,000 bears
- Distribution
  - West of I-25 with smaller populations in river bottoms east of I-25 and in SE Canyonlands



Black Bear Biology

- Adult Males: ~275 pounds
- Adult Females: ~175 pounds
- Range from 125-450+ pounds depending on food source availability

Black Bear Biology

- Many different color phases
  - Black, Brown, Cinnamon, Honey, Blonde
  - No grizzly bears in Colorado
- Omnivores
  - 80%to 95%+ of their diet is vegetarian
  - Meat portion is often carrion
  - Trash
- “Hibernate” in the winter
  - Seasonal Lethargy
  - “Trigger” is often food availability rather than temperature/snowfall

Bear Attractants

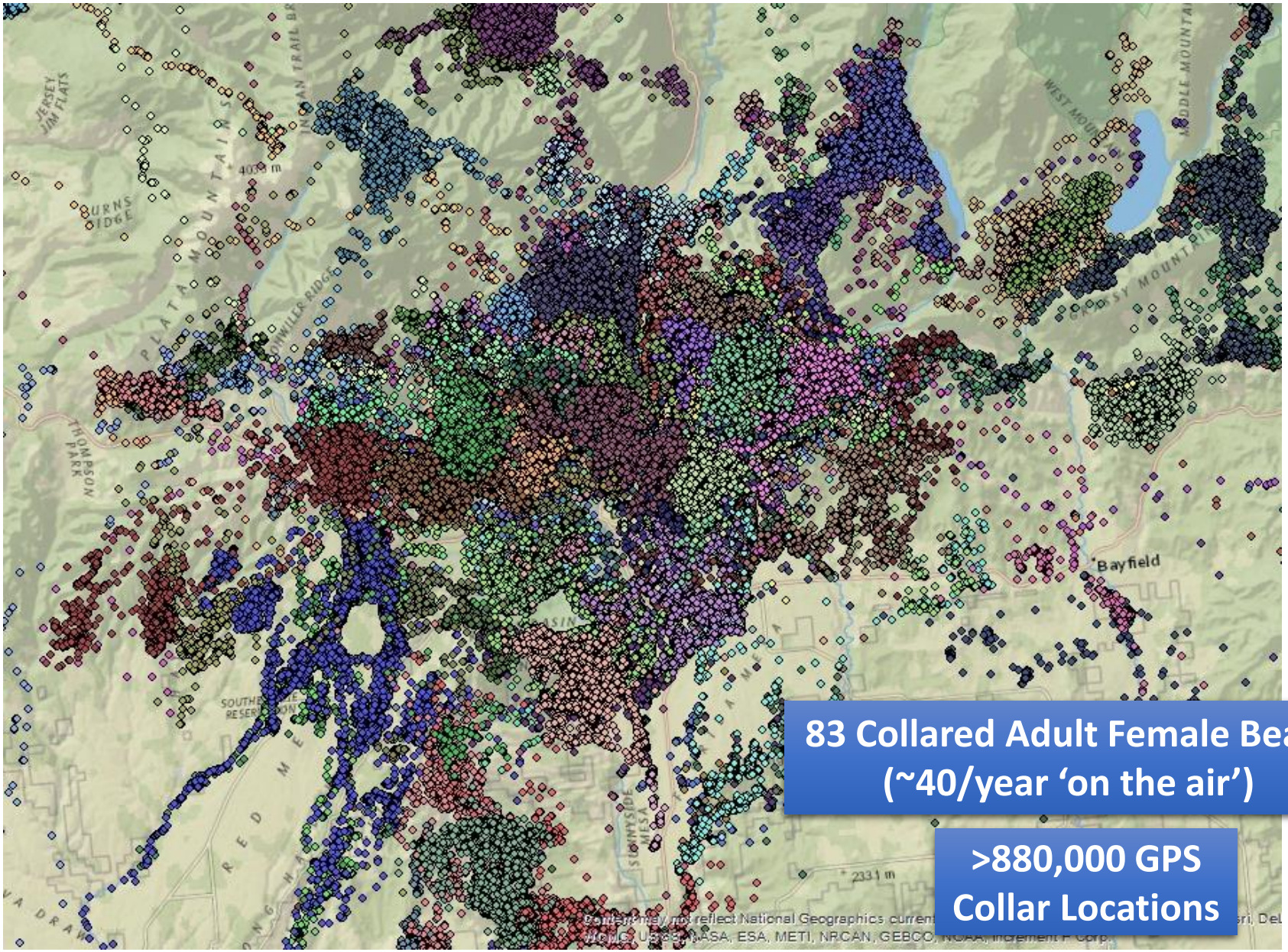
- Trash
- Bird seed
- BBQ Grills
- Pet Food
- Air Fresheners
- Pets/Livestock
- Hot Tub Covers
- Gardens
- Fruit Trees

- Bee Hives
- Ponds/Fish
- Compost Piles
- Natural Sources

Causes, Consequences and Considerations for Management of Human-Black Bear Conflicts: Lessons Learned from Research in Durango

Heather Johnson
Stewart Breck, David Lewis, Jared Laufenberg, Stacy Lischka, Tana Verzuh, and Cody Wallace

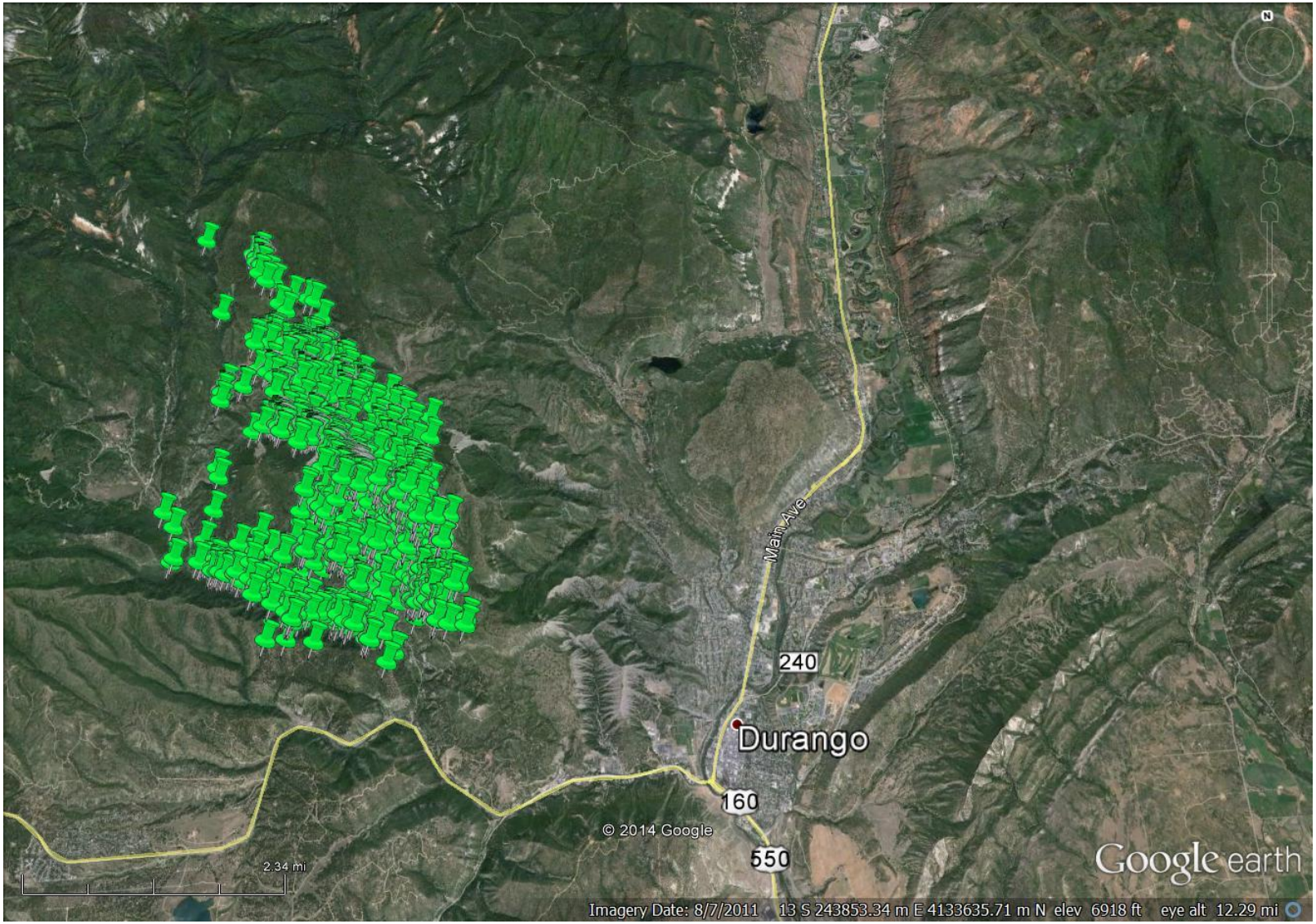
LIVE LIFE OUTSIDE



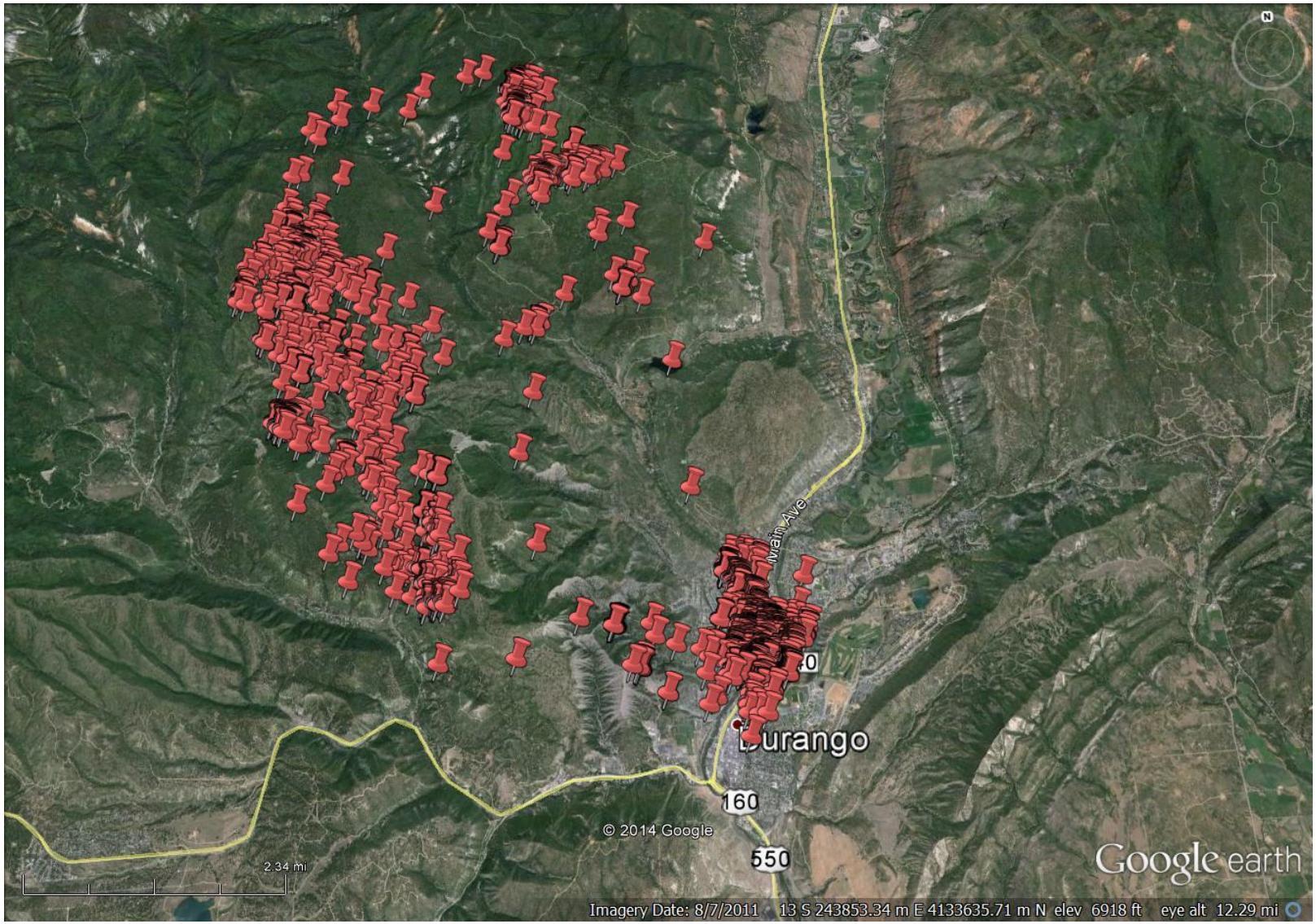
83 Collared Adult Female Bears (~40/year 'on the air')

>880,000 GPS Collar Locations

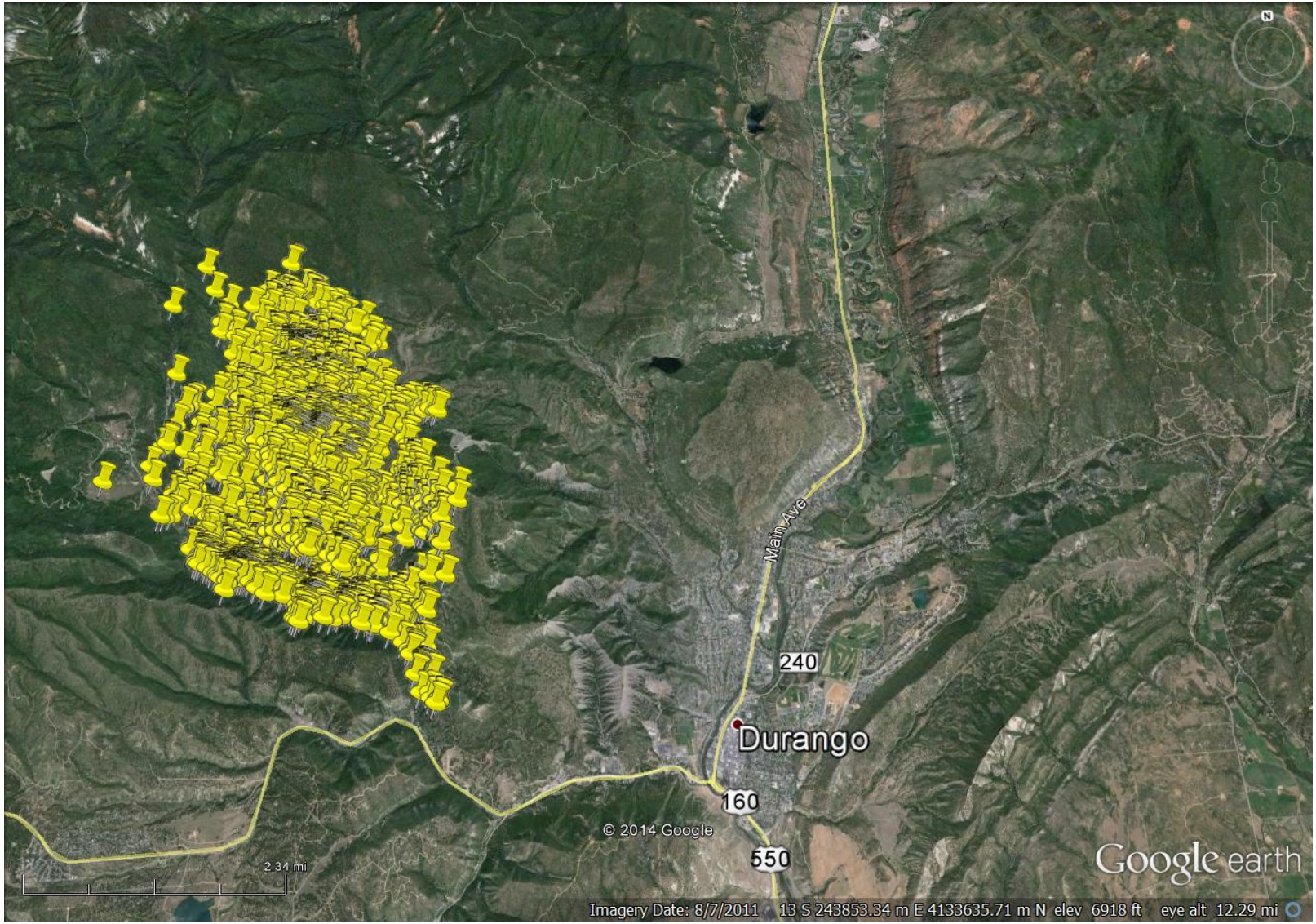
B25: 2011 (good natural food year)



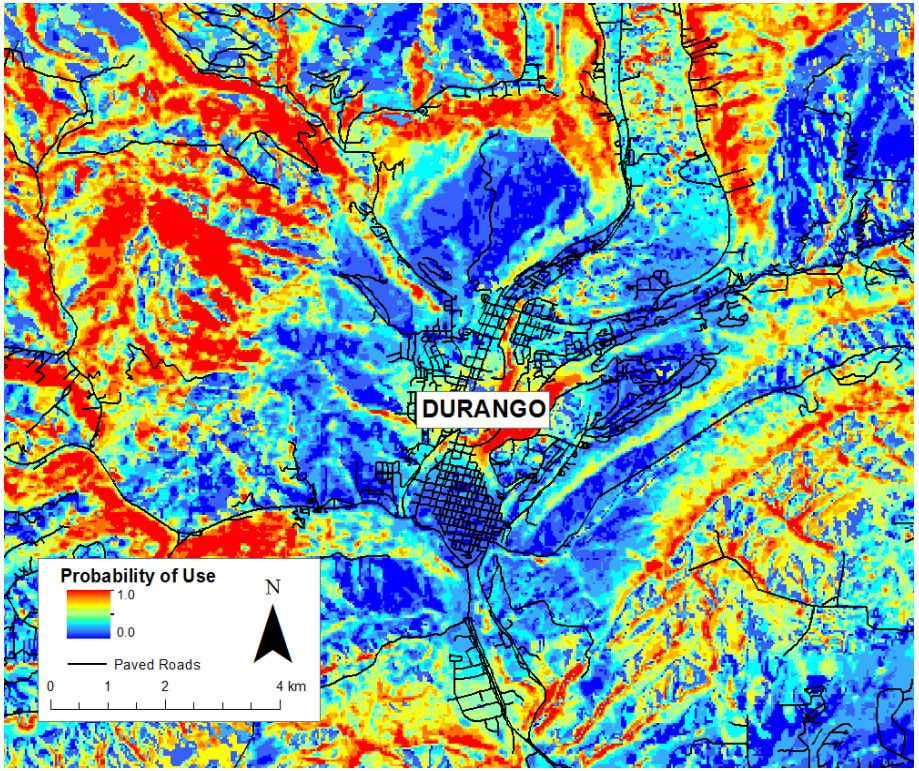
B25: 2012 (poor natural food year)



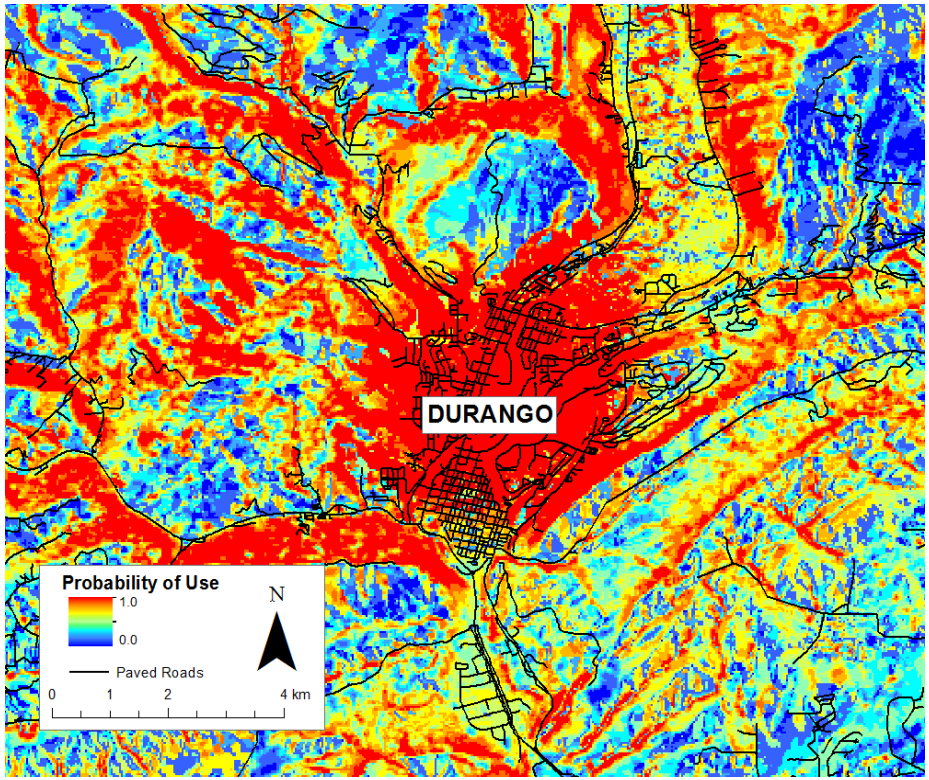
B25: 2013 (moderate natural food year)

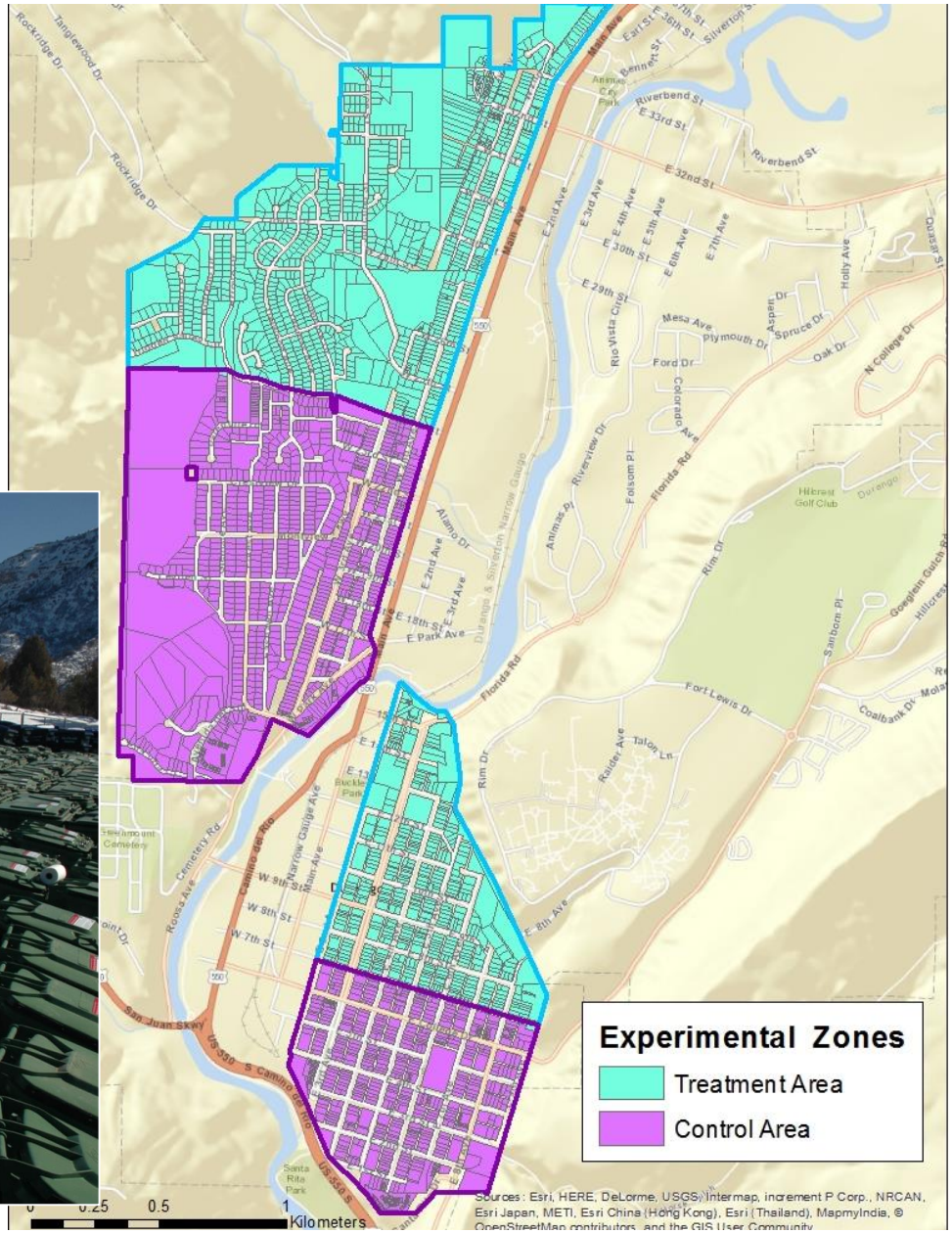


Good natural foods

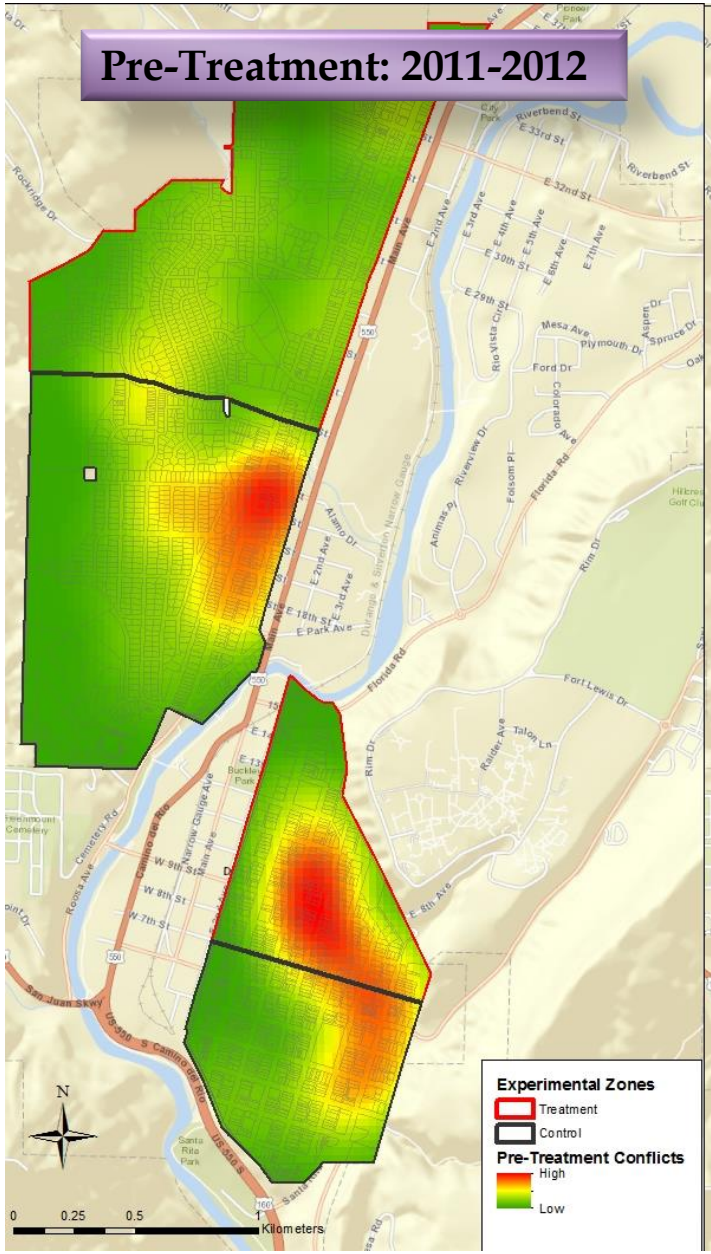


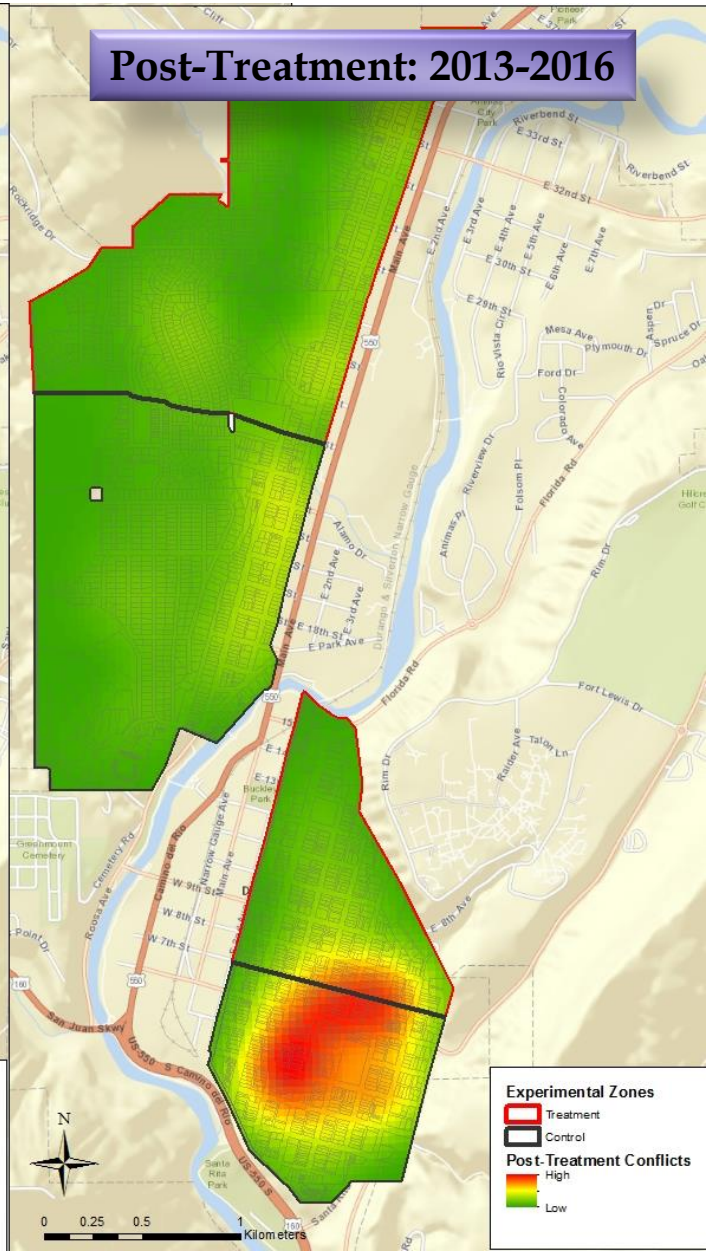
Poor natural foods



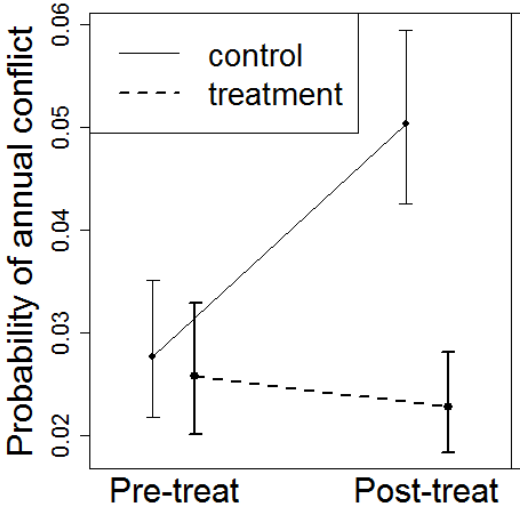


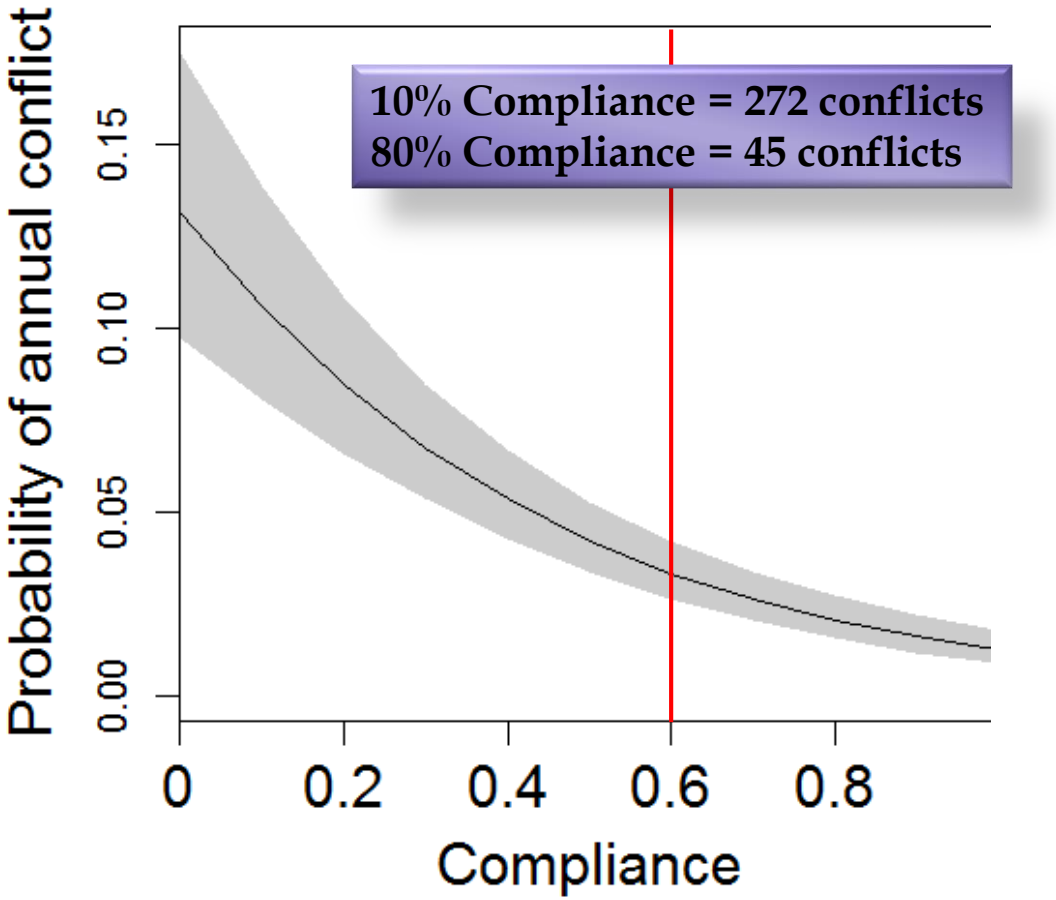
LIVE LIFE OUTSIDE


Pre-Treatment: 2011-2012
Experimental Zones
Treatment
Control
Pre-Treatment Conflicts
High
Low
N
0 0.25 0.5 1
Kilometers


Post-Treatment: 2013-2016
Experimental Zones
Treatment
Control
Post-Treatment Conflicts
High
Low
N
0 0.25 0.5 1
Kilometers

Testing the effectiveness of the bear-resistant experiment for reducing human-bear conflicts





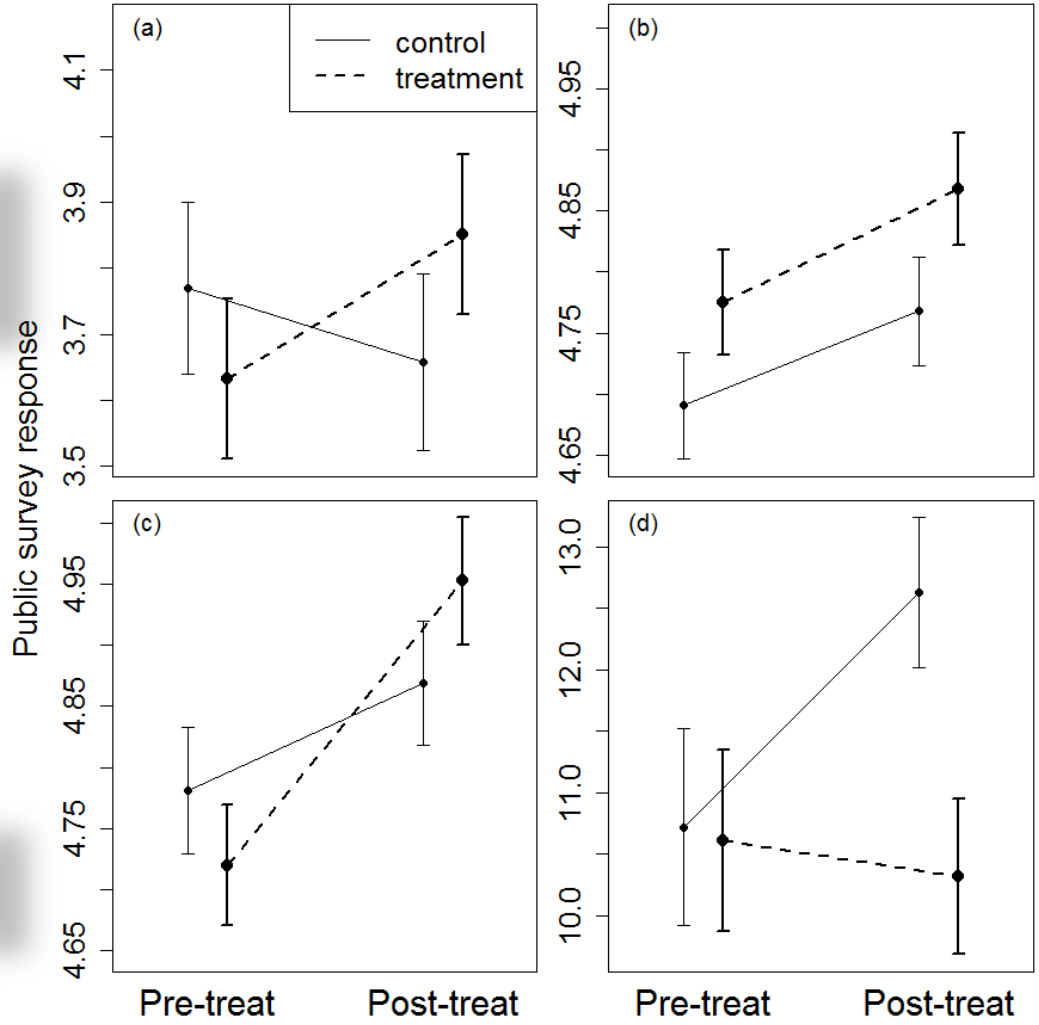
Public Survey Questions

- 1) Rate your satisfaction in management of bears and human-bear conflicts
- 2) How effective are bear-resistant containers for reducing conflicts?
- 3) How acceptable is it for CPW to support city ordinances requiring bear-resistant containers?
- 4) How likely is it that you will experience a bear conflict in the future?

Public Survey Results

Satisfaction with Management

Effectiveness of Containers



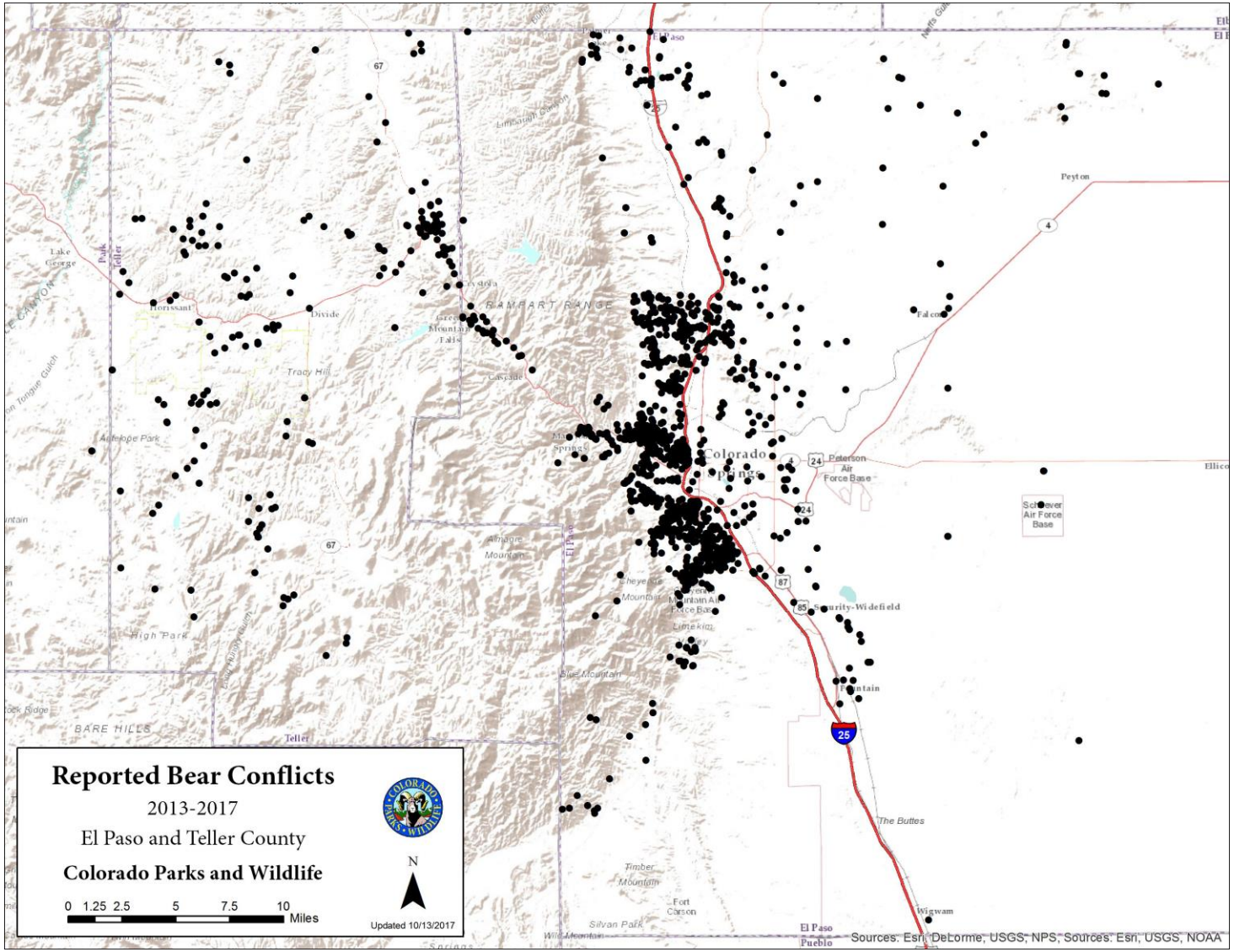
Support for Ordinances

Risk of Future Conflict

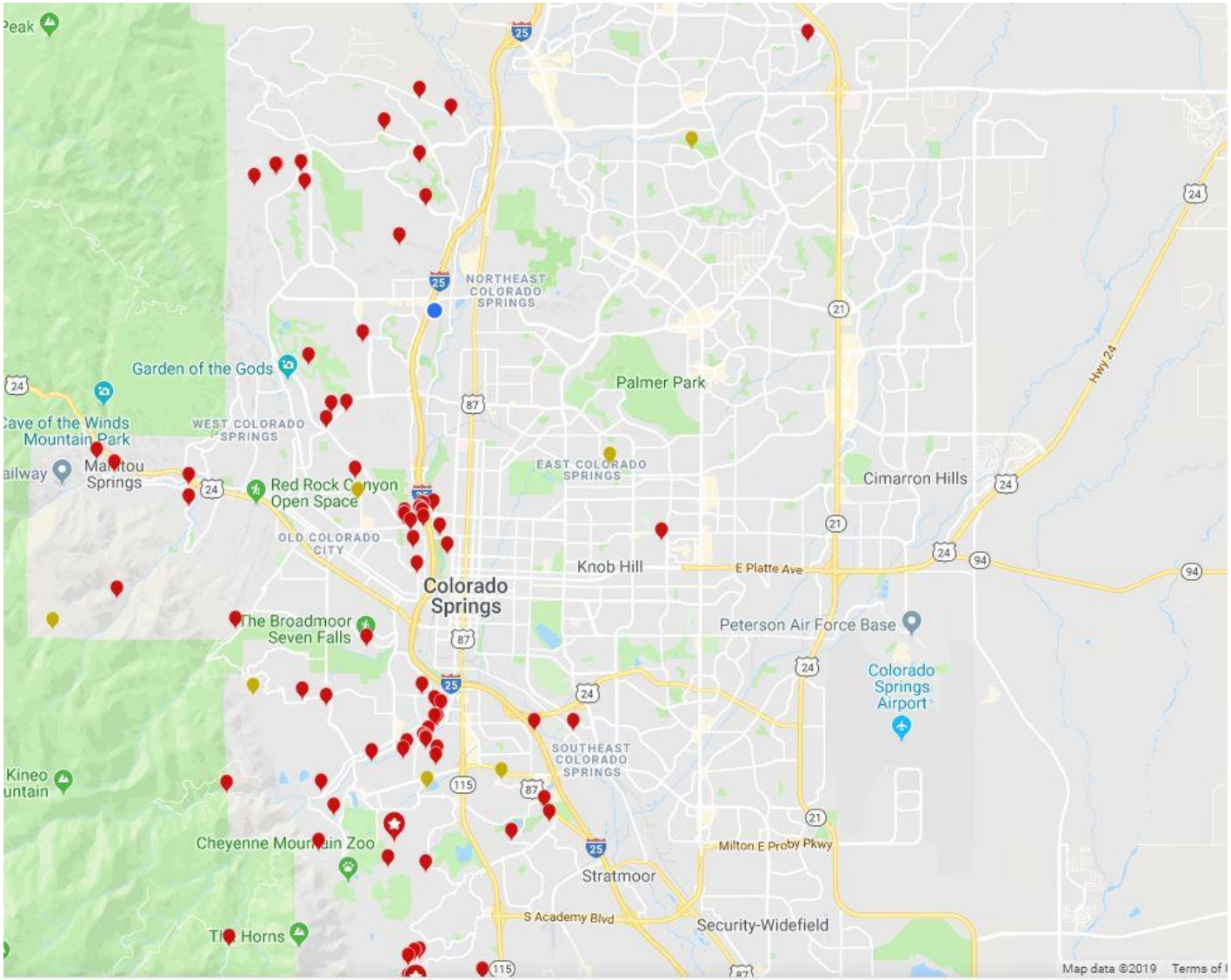
Take Home Messages

- Distribution of bear-resistant containers resulted in 50% fewer conflicts than control areas.
- Important to promote compliance with ordinances to reduce access to human foods (by whatever means); ~60% compliance rate significantly reduced conflicts, and may serve as a useful management target
- Distribution of cans not only reduced conflicts, but positively changed public perceptions (management, ordinances, future risk)

Local Human-Bear Conflicts



Local Conflict 4/1/19 - 7/8/19



LIVE LIFE OUTSIDE

Number of calls by County
(April 1, 2019- July 8, 2019)

1.	Pitkin	224
2.	Routt	183
3.	El Paso	152
4.	Boulder	142
5.	Larimer	128
6.	La Plata	105
7.	Garfield	97