



Yosemite National Park Archives



# State of the Field: Redefining Human-Wildlife Conflict to Ensure More Durable Solutions

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A National Geographic magazine cover featuring a wolf howling. The text "NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC" is at the top, and "Wolf Wars" is at the bottom. The cover is framed in yellow.

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

Wolf Wars

# What is human-wildlife conflict?



- Direct competition between humans and wildlife over resources
- Results in direct harm to wildlife, people, and/or property.
- Underlying and deep-rooted conflicts between people may escalate or even drive human responses

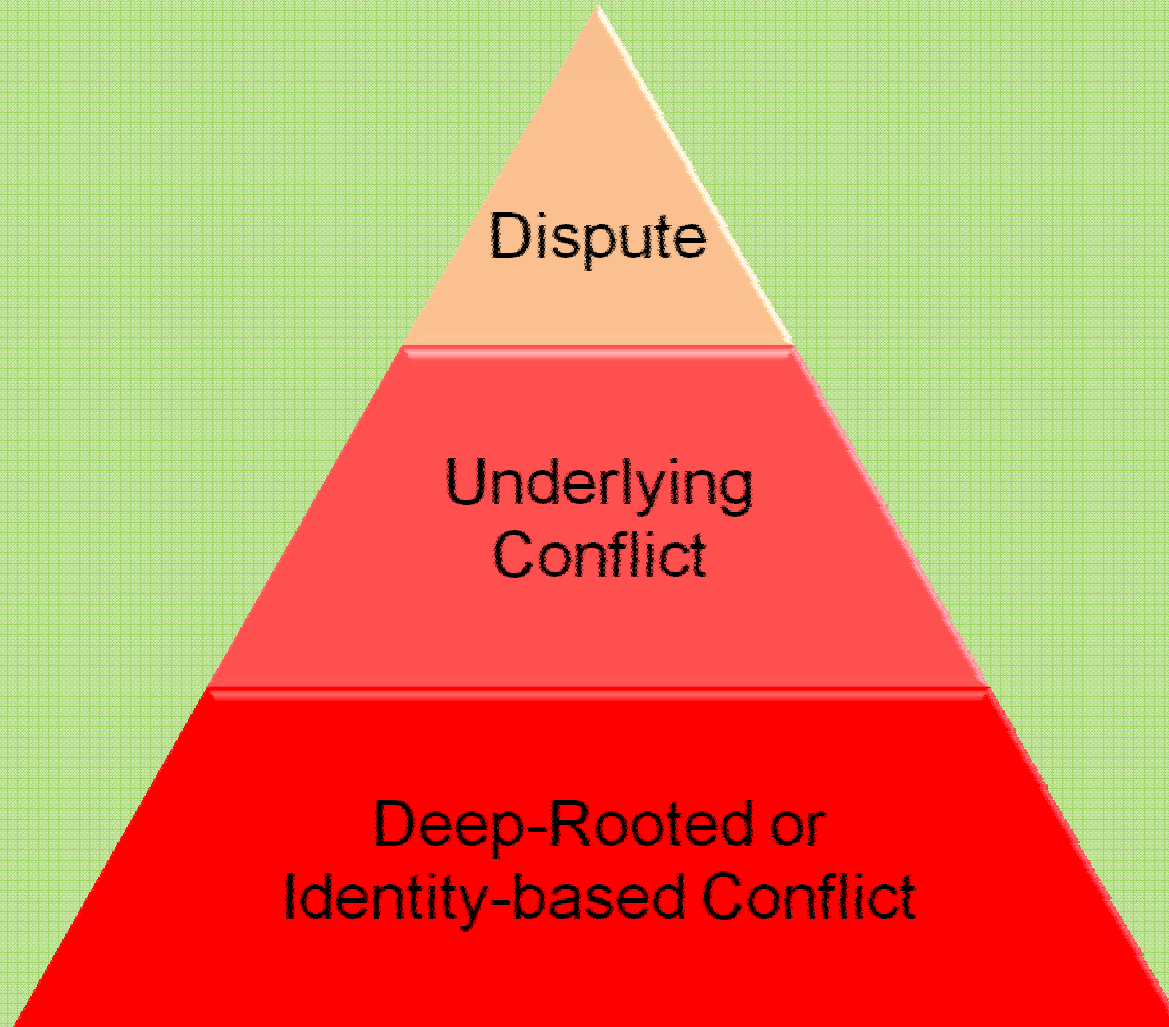
# How do you define human-wildlife conflict?

Classic  
Definition

Expanded  
Definition



# A Tool for Analysis: **Levels of Conflict**



# What are we fighting about?

HOW  
(Process)

WHAT  
(Substance)

WHO  
(Relationships)

# Where is the field today?

## Where do we need to go tomorrow?

Classic  
Definition

Expanded  
Definition

# Long Term Evaluation of HWCC's Conservation Conflict Resolution Training

- 100% said that everyone in conservation field needs deep-rooted conflict training & that field-wide capacity building is essential to achieving goals.
- Over 95% reported sustained improvement in their ability to address conflict as a result of training.

*“As a result of the training, I helped establish a community organization that deals with HWC [and engages] Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) ...so we can change the negative attitude people have towards KWS. I have seen remarkably positive responses in every subsequent meeting.”*

*-- Simon Kasaine, PhD candidate*

# Long Term Evaluation of Conservation Conflict Resolution Training

- 87% said that there should be wide-spread use of conflict interventions in conservation field.
- 92% said funders should be more aware of deep-rooted conflict
- 50% of respondents were mid and senior level professionals; 32% were graduate students.

***“How could ANYone with blood running through them NOT benefit from this??” – USGS Senior Staff***

# Conclusions and Recommendations

- Integrate a complete treatment of human conflict dynamics in projects
- Value and engage the systems and relationships that are essential to supporting durable solutions
- Elevate and endorse best practice standards in conflict transformation with same attention and resources we currently give scientific research

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The Wildlife Society

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*[www.humanwildlifeconflict.org](http://www.humanwildlifeconflict.org)*