

MEETING NOTES

NORTH CASCADES ECOSYSTEM GRIZZLY BEAR SUBCOMMITTEE

Wenatchee, WA

April 29, 2014

Attendees, Subcommittee:

Karen Taylor-Goodrich (NPS, via phone)

Jack Oelfke (NPS)

Bob Everitt (WDFW)

Jim Brown (WDFW)

Jennifer Eberlien (USFS)

Mike Balboni (USFS)

Tony Hamilton, BCMoE (via phone)

Technical Team:

Andrea Lyons (USFS)

Anne Braaten (NPS)

Wayne Kasworm (USFWS)

Gregg Kurz (USFWS)

IGBC:

Chris Smith

EIS Update:

The National Park Service and US Fish & Wildlife Service continue to support the development of an Environmental Impact Statement for evaluating alternatives for grizzly bear recovery in the NCE. The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife continues to face hurdles with respect to an RCW limiting state involvement in grizzly bear recovery, and issues stemming from wolf recovery.

Summer meeting planning:

The IGBC Summer meeting will begin with a business meeting the morning of June 24th at Sun Mountain Lodge in Winthrop, WA. From there the group will travel to the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center on Diablo Lake (within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area), with an informational stop at Washington Pass. On June 25th a field trip will start from the Learning Center, travelling up Ross Lake to the international border.

Status of "population":

The 2010-2012 DNA project did not turn up any grizzly bear samples. Approximately 23% of the ecosystem was sampled, with emphasis given to areas of high quality habitat. The lack of grizzly bear detection does not indicate there are no grizzly bears in the NCE, but does suggest only a very small remnant remains.

Western Wildlife Outreach update:

The WWO has been very active. They continue to stage "Bear Days" at Woodland Park Zoo; between January 1st and April they distributed 6,000 Bear Safe brochures through agencies and their own events; brought the Bear Education trailer to 5 events on both sides of the ecosystem, with more events planned over the summer; will continue to partner with Bill Gaines this summer to present the results of the DNA study in several locations on the eastside and at Woodland Park; he's already presented at a few locations on the westside. They also provide outreach at state parks and other locations. The WWO worked with the North Cascades Institute and North Cascades National Park to develop a "Wildlife Wise" program at the Environmental Learning Center. It is focused on fostering a more deliberate awareness both of wildlife on & near the campus, and people's roles in keeping food and garbage secure from wildlife.

Information & Education Strategy:

The Wildlife Management Institute is midway through their agreement with the IGBC, and came to touch base with the NCE with regard to their *Strategic Direction for Information, Education and Outreach Efforts of the IGBC*. Progress as well as weaknesses in public outreach were identified. The new Chief of Interpretation at North Cascades National Park will coordinate agency I&EO efforts once s/he has been hired, replacing the USFWS's Doug Zimmer.

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