



Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak Subcommittee

Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee

S/C-Y CHAIR

Randy Hojem

Lolo National Forest

S/C-Y VICE-CHAIR

Mary Farnsworth
Idaho Panhandle NFs

S/C-Y MEMBERS

Highlighted=present

Eric Besaw (Pat Seymour)
Idaho Dept. of Lands

Jodi Bush

US Fish & Wildlife Service
Montana Field Office

Aaron Rasmussen

Bureau of Land Mgmt.

Ben Conard

US Fish & Wildlife Service
Northern Idaho Field Office

Chip Corsi

State of Idaho

Dan Dinning

County Commissioners

Garth Mowat
BC Parks & Environment

Steve Pozzanghera

WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Chris Savage
Kootenai National Forest

Laura Jo West
Colville National Forest

Jim Williams
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

I&E TASKFORCE CHAIR

Kim Annis

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

John Gubel
Kootenai National Forest

SCIENCE ADVISORS

Wayne Kasworm

US Fish & Wildlife Service

Wayne Wakkinen

Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game

AGENDA

Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge
Bonners Ferry, ID

9:00 am (PDT), 10:00 am (MDT) May 13, 2014

9:00- 9:15

Welcome/Introductions

Randy Hojem

Notes- Randy H. introduces purpose of SCY subcommittee, introductions around the room. Public involvement welcome throughout meeting.

9:15-10:15

Research Update – Both Ecosystems *Wayne Kasworm/Wayne Wakkinen*

Notes- Wakkinen (ID), New job as Regional Wildlife Manager (IDFG) in CDA.

Will still be working on grizzly bears, but covering many more responsibilities. His research position will likely not be refilled. Some duties will go to Wayne K. Field activities in Selkirks, trapping (USFWS crew), Some trapping will be done in Canada. IDFG has a wildlife tech that will run remote cameras and DNA corrals. Document presence of bears, detection of recovery criteria (females w/ cubs etc), info on bear distribution in and out of RZ. Camera stuff is primary and DNA is ancillary and will run all season. Bear "Ethel" 18 yr old female was up near McGee airstrip fall 2013, N of interstate, moved into St Joe Drainage, May 2014, S and west of St Regis MT in Gold Creek Drainage, Idaho – Don't know if she has cubs.

Kasworm – see written research update in files. Wayne discussed bear that traveled back and forth from Cabinets and Waterton Park. Questions about where collar dropped, and why not move more bears. Why tell about travels of one bear. Interesting biologically (mgmt. implications?), also want to see if bears stay in Cabinets after release. That bear has not reproduced yet. Wayne explained rationale for augmentation program. Large proportion of bears in Cabinets are related to an augmentation bear from the 1990s. Have been moving some males as well for genetic diversity. Questions to Wayne: *how Wayne's pop trend data relates to Kendall's data, and what factors are changing during time periods where bears are increasing and decreasing. Concern over the fact that population goals are changing over time and that population is not increasing and forest is still closed because of bears.* Population is currently stable according to best data. Wayne strongly supports reducing human caused mortality as a good potential solution to increasing the population. *Have bears been augmented into the Yaak?* Some earlier bears with problems, but none recently. Releases in Cabinets because there has been a greater need for bears. Plenty of dispersal after release. *Question about planting huckleberries or other berries.*

10:15-10:30

Break

10:30-11:30*Information and Education update & Bear Specialists**Kim Annis*

Notes- Kim Annis (MT) – Reduce mortality is the main goal of her position. No conflicts during 2013. 8th year here, she has had 7 conflict bears and moved 4 bears. 4 conflict bears are now dead. Lots of black bear conflicts (1-2 bear/mi²). Reducing open garbage transfer sites. Loaner garbage cans. Electric fencing.

Brian Johnson (ID) – Contacts about 2000 people per year. Emphasizing a patrol effort during late May bear season because that's where many Grizzly bears can be killed. Funding stable currently for Brian's work.

Colleen Matt (Wildlife Management Institute) – IGBC budget cuts expected in 2015. Plan for Information, Education, and Outreach (I,E&O) from the subcommittee a few years ago set some priorities. IGBC should be helping with the places we need help and can't fund ourselves. 2 grants funded by IGBC each year recently have been ID FG bear work (B. Johnson) and Eureka FS Bear Ranger. Bear spray brochure on IGBC website can be downloaded and printed for free. Bear spray video also available. What are the 3 most important I,E&O things to do that would reduce conflicts?

Questions/comments to Colleen: *Can we afford grizzly recovery? Public is on the verge of revolt and agencies need to start listening – we can't afford this work.*

Question about where educational efforts are to educate adults about ESA?

Randy will write letter to IGBC about I+E needs in SCY area.

11:30-11:45*Cabinet-Yaak DNA study update**Tabitha Graves*

Notes- Final report to coauthors for review. Submitted to MTFWP later this spring. Kate reported to IGBC, KVRI. FOIA request about DNA study, Kate's powerpoint and population study was sent. A Notice of Intent to file a lawsuit over uplisting (from threatened to endangered) has been received by USFWS. Question over best science, *should we look at a Selkirk DNA study?*

11:45-12:00*Update on recovery and delisting in NCDE and Yellowstone* *Wayne Kasworm*

Notes- Conservation strategy underway and draft is out for comment.

Discussion about genetic connectivity among recovery zones. Delisting CYE as part of NCDE discussed by Randy H. DPS or not? Randy is expecting some level of revision of recovery plan to begin in the next few years. Discussion – IDFG want to join the 2 ecosystems (consider delisting S-CY bears concurrently with NCDE & YE. Public concern raised on disparity on how USFWS is pushing delisting of wolves and grizzlies. Randy expects that if YE and NCDE are recovered, more funds could come to CYE and SE. Question about *how more \$ will help recovery.* *Paul Fielder, legislators and commissioners are formally suggesting the subcommittee ask the IGBC to immediately update the recovery plan and allocate resources as needed to do so.* Randy thinks USFWS plans to work on this in 2015/2016. Randy will forward the recovery plan letter to IGBC. Discussion of the lawsuit for uplisting the CYE and assigning critical habitat. CYE, SE, NCE all determined as warranted but precluded from uplisting.

12:00-1:00**Lunch**

1:00-2:00

NFWF Funding priorities

Randy Hojem

Notes- What would the subcommittee fund if they had only partial funding – what are the priorities? (see previous document on listed items sent to NFWF in 2013) Priorities 1) continue funding for MT and ID bear specialists, consider adding a WA specialist – additional seasonal bear technicians. 2) Augmentation. 3) Bear collaring work and equipment. Randy will be writing a letter to NFWF to explain the subcommittee's priority choices. Randy will specifically mention reimbursing a portion of Lincoln county's contribution to the DNA and ask that to be a high priority.

2:00-2:30

2014 Program of Work

Subcommittee

Notes- Tabled

2:30-3:00

Public Comments/Questions

All

Notes- Black bear densities – 1.4-1.9/mile². Do Black and Grizzly bears compete? Are we short on forage? Would reducing black bear numbers improve grizzly bear survival? Support for using GPS data to redo Wayne's report and refine road density information/standards. Selkirk DNA analysis could provide excellent linkage info. DNA study in CYE was possible because it had a champion to support it. Support for federal funding of recovery efforts because local support is more limited and broader support is present. Suggestion of combination of the 2 study types (DNA and GPS collar). Would DNA work in SE help delisting efforts by showing where DPSs start and stop? Support for timber sales, grizzlies need open areas for forage – population trend of grizzlies is more based on habitat than anything. Local communities are dying – no people left – need to change management quickly to get some forestry work done. Desire to see the subcommittee work toward more active forest management. Public need to be involved in their govt. and we get the govt we deserve. How can best science be brought to bear on some of these larger ESA issues and questions? We don't know if habitat is a limiting factor in the CYE and SE, biological data points to healthy bears (similar litter sizes, body conditions, etc as other areas). Never heard environmental groups say they want to use the ESA to stop active mgmt.

Winter meeting = 12/3/2014