

Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak IGBC Subcommittee Workshop
May 13, 2015 9:30-12:45, PST
Idaho Panhandle NFs Supervisor's Office-Coeur d'Alene

Attendance: members of the SCYE IGBC committee (Mary Farnsworth (FS-IPNF (chair)), Chris Savage (FS-KNF (vice-chair), Chip Corsi (IDFG), Ben Conard (USFWS), Laura Jo West (FS CNF), Steve Pozzanghera (WDFW), Cindy Weston (BLM-for Linda Clark), and Technical Advisors Wayne Kasworm (USFWS) and Wayne Wakkinen (IDFG). Additional agency representatives and the public.

Agenda Topic	Person(s) leading discussion	Desired Outcome
Introductions	Mary	
Grizzly Bear Ecosystem Updates	Waynes	Information & Discussion
Usk, WA Grizzly Bear 'at Risk' Update	Jay Shepherd	Information
Information and Education Updates	Brian & Mary	Information
Update of 3-year plan (2015-2017) for Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk ecosystems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate the ecosystems in the IGBC 3-year plan • Include specifics from I&E task force group 	Mary	Review and finalization of draft 3-year plan for submission to E. Davis/IGBC
Public Comments/Questions	Subcommittee	Information

NOTES:

Grizzly Bear Ecosystem Updates-Wayne Kasworm:— Review of ongoing efforts and this field seasons efforts in both ecosystem. Please see written research update for details. Briefly:

- ✓ 17 bears transplanted into the ecosystem in the last 25 years
- ✓ 2015 Plan: 1 male; 1 female into the Cabinets this year
- ✓ Monitoring a number of bears right now:
 - 24 grizzly bears total
 - 9 bears in Cabinet-Yaak; (2-Cabinets; 7-Yaak)
 - 15 bears in Selkirks; (9 in BC; 6 in US)
- ✓ We are experiencing an early spring. As a result, bears are emerging much earlier this year. Males began exiting in mid-March and females in early April.
- ✓ Monitoring population trend is determined using vital statistics by tracking female reproduction/recruitment and cub survival. The Cabinet-Yaak population was doing fine in 1990s but in late 1990s – 2006 had real declines for a variety of reasons. But the population has been increasing since then and since 2014 we are looking at a positive rate of growth for grizzly bears in this ecosystem.
- ✓ Expect to field two trapping teams in Cabinet-Yaak and one team in the Selkirks this year. Have 3 folks working in the Selkirks to install corrals and cameras (DNA plus pictures to document

females/cubs). This is an important effort to help determine distribution to meet recovery parameters. These individuals will also establish rub trees in Selkirk ecosystem.

- ✓ These expanded efforts in the Selkirks ecosystem are due to a successful partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, U.S. Forest Service (Colville & Idaho Panhandle NFs), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and B. C. government.

Question: Likelihood of any of these bears may show up in the Cascades? Not likely—need to get across the Columbia R. But did have a bear that did just that (ultimately ended up dead near Creston BC)....

Question: Will FWS postpone trapping in June now that spring black bear hunting has been extended through June 15th in Idaho? Yes: will begin in WA and shift to Idaho in June.

Question: Did rate of increase apply to both CY and Selkirks? No, just CY. We're in the process of recalculating the rate for the Selkirk ecosystem. Last time it was done was in 2004. Rate of increase at that time was around 0.16. Wayne anticipates an increase in the rate for the Selkirks.

Question: Will FWS target bears for re-collaring whose collars may be ready to wink out? Yes—we will target them after July.

Wayne Wakkinen Update: Wayne is in a new position with IDF&G. However, he will remain heavily involved in the research and IGBC subcommittee.

WA (Usk) Grizzly Bear at Risk Update-Jay Shepard/Bart George: On May 2nd a bear was documented eating chicken feed. It was reported to be a grizzly bear. A trap was set near the chicken coop that same day. Bear was reported to be very indifferent to humans. The following day, a bear was spotted six miles south on the reservation. Subsequent efforts to find and/or identify that bear using spot-lighting were unsuccessful. Some bee hives were raided the following Saturday but all signs indicated extensive black bear presence. However, on May 8th a grizzly bear was photographed in the vicinity of the bee hives on the Le Clerc road. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife set a trap at that time and caught and released (with hazing) a female black bear). The grizzly bear has not been seen since that time.

- ✓ Need to develop a response and protocol on how to proceed with future incidents. From a black bear/sanitation stand point WDFW needs to ramp this up.

Comment (Mary): Subcommittee needs to be mindful of this situation as we go forward in our work.

Comment (Wayne K): This is the perfect opportunity to make the most of this situation while it's fresh in the public's mind.

Comment (Wayne W): On May 12th there was a report of a grizzly bear in the Samuels areas. There were photos taken and several people observed the bear. Will do some Information and Education with local folks and have a response if it gets into trouble. This incident raises the question of the need for elevated Information and Education as grizzly bears expand their distribution.

Question: Have responsive have been landowners been to this situation? Pretty good. The bear hasn't caused any trouble at this time. Residents south of reservation store their garbage—Jay—we have our work cut out for us. We really need to ramp up I and E and need help from other entities and the states on how to proceed.

Question: Would FWS give this bear a “strike”? Wayne K: Not at this time. The FWS may move this bear preemptively if there were further encounters.

Question: Is FWS going to loan WDFW a culvert trap? Wayne K: Yes, it is on its way. It sits on the back of a truck and slides out.

Information and Education Updates-Brian Johnson (IDF&G) – Wrapping up two events with area schools which includes use of simulated camping situations and proper sanitation in bear country. The Spring bear season is open and bears are very vulnerable at this time because they're typically at lower elevations seeking out green vegetation after den emergence. IDF&G typically conducts emphasis patrols in spring with the idea of getting as many officers out for public contacts.

Information and Education Updates-Mary – Reviewed highlights from Kim Annis's notes from the April 2nd Workshop—i.e. Primary Goals.

- ✓ Increase coordination and communication in each of the ecosystems in relation to I&E
- ✓ Communicate regularly with other taskforce members
- ✓ Identify I&E project needs in each ecosystem
- ✓ Identify funding and partnership needs for those projects
- ✓ Evaluate our I&E efforts and adjust as needed

Update of 3-year plan (2015-2017) for Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk ecosystems: Please see summary document.

Other Business:

- Finalize Letter to NCDE managers (Chris Servheen and Wayne Kasworm will draft)
- Request formal addition to IGBC Charter (if necessary-Lydia will review situation)
- Invitation to the Kootenai and Kalispel tribes to join the SCYE IGBC
- Did we cover Information and Education in Pend Orielle county sufficiently? Add Information and Education Task Force to ramp it up. Contact Kim and John Gubel. Jay Shepherd (with WDFG) is the only conflict specialist for a 3 county area. This area has the most wolf packs in the state and has to deal with ALL conflict issues (cougar, bears, wolves, turkeys, etc...). If we really want to get some bear sanitation efforts going in this area we really need some help! Some thoughts:
 - ✓ **Bear Ranger Positions:** IGBC has helped fund these positions in the past. Typically FS.
 - ✓ **Long Term:** letter from SCYE IGBC to the new director to provide support for additional position to help support this effort. Steve P. will do some homework on this topic concerning what would be most helpful in this letter (by early June).

Question: Does department use YouTube to get information out to public on this topic? Could use it but real need is that “personal touch” —i.e. door-to-door. It's on the Information and Education agenda.

Other Public Comments

Defenders of Wildlife: really interested in helping with Information and Education programs. They have a compensation program and have helped out with securing bear boxes, etc.

Lincoln County Commissioners: Concerned about creating good habitat through vegetation management. They desire a coordinated and prioritized effort to create habitat over space/time for grizzly bears. Response(s): Chris Savage (Kootenai NF)—this isn't really addressed in our forest plan. Chip Corsi (IDF&G): Idaho has been focused on preventing/reducing human-caused mortalities—not habitat. No sure when habitat will become a limiting factor. Group recommends keeping this topic at the forefront of the subcommittee's discussions.

Fall Meeting: November 4th in Usk, Washington. Will check on availability at the Camas Center. Second choice will be Priest River, Idaho.