

Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak IGBC Subcommittee Workshop
November 4, 2015 9:30-2:30, PST
Kalispel Tribe of Indians Camas Center
Cusick, WA

Attendance: members of the SCYE IGBC committee (Mary Farnsworth (FS-IPNF (chair)), Chris Savage (FS-KNF (vice-chair), Barb Moore (IDFG-for Chip Corsi & Wayne Wakkinen), Ben Conard (USFWS-MT), Holger Bohm (British Columbia representative), Pat Seymour (IDL-for Eric Besaw), Gayne Sears (FS CNF-for Rodney Smolden), Dan Dinning (County), Neil Anderson (MFWP), Scott Grunder (USFWS-Idaho), Steve Pozzanghera (WDFW), Cindy Weston (BLM-for Linda Clark), and Technical Advisor Wayne Kasworm (USFWS) . Additional agency representatives and the public in the audience.

Agenda Topic	Person(s) leading discussion	Desired Outcome
Introductions	Mary	
Grizzly Bear Ecosystem Updates	Wayne K.	Information & Discussion
Information and Education Updates	Brian & Neil	Information
Review of 2015 Accomplishments/Develop 2016 Plan	Mary	Review & Finalize
Update of 3-year plan (2015-2017) for Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk ecosystems	Mary	Review and finalization of Plan
Correspondence Review	Mary	NCDE connectivity letter
Public Comments/Questions	Subcommittee	Information

NOTES:

Introductions

- ✓ Welcome to new members on the Subcommittee including new B.C. representative Holger Bohm (Cranbrook, B.C.) and Scott Grunder (USFWS-ID field office). Tim Garcia (Lolo NF) and Gayne Sears (Colville NF) sitting in for new representatives Dave Hattis (Lolo NF) and Rodney Smolden (Colville) who were unable to attend.

Grizzly Bear Ecosystem Updates-Wayne Kasworm:– Review of ongoing efforts and 2015 field season efforts in both ecosystem. Please see written research update for details. Briefly:

- ✓ Collared Grizzly Bear Monitoring (for some/all of 2015):
 - Cabinets=4; Yaak=8; B.C. Selkirks=11; U.S. Selkirks=6 animals
 - Interesting movements include:
 - 2 year old male augmented into the Cabinets moved south to the Coeur d’Alene River basin (subsequently shot during hunting season)
 - Male bear left the Yaak and headed to the Rockies in B.C.
 - Male bear crossed from the Selkirks to the Cabinets via MacArthur Lake corridor
 - Male bear from the Selkirks moved ~40 miles west to Rossland, B.C. (missing for a year)
- ✓ DNA hair snare efforts:
 - 190 corrals; 1 camera only site; 19 rubs
 - Look at distribution to help guide next year’s efforts
 - DNA Analysis-will send hair into the lab this December-may have it back by May 2016
 - Discussion of efficacy of rubs versus hair snare corrals in detecting grizzly bear presence

Question: Concerning the death of the augmented male grizzly bear that moved into the Coeur d'Alene basin—What is going to be done in the future with similar situations? What about darting the bear?

- Discussions about what was observed and what was attempted by IDFG.

Information and Education Updates

Brian Johnson (IDF&G) and Neil Anderson (MTFWP for Kim Anderson) – Brief summary of Information and Education, law enforcement and bear management incidents in 2015. See updates.

Jay Shepard (WDFW)—Lots of black bear issues this year. Early season sighting of grizzly bear (see spring notes). Last weekend had an apparent grizzly bear tear up a round bale of hay.

Subcommittee Correspondence

NCDE draft letter from Wayne K./C. Servheen (see letter). How do we move forward?

Anderson: What is the overall goal of the letter? Concern about some language in letter that refers to numbers. Doesn't tell NCDE anything they don't already know. Do we really need such a letter? Specifically, population parameters and take were two areas of concern for MTFWP. Felt that letter suggests that state manage for an ever increasing population of bears in NCDE.

Dinning: Selkirk population needs genetic exchange between Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak. His concern is that SCYE is being viewed/treated as "step-child". MTFWP suggests that we don't need an ever increasing population of bears in order to have exchange. Habitat is key to movement. Focus on corridors for travel to ensure.

Savage: Intent of letter was to let NCDE was to say "don't forget about us". The S and CY have to have movement in order to delist. No mention of SCYE in June IGBC meeting—all about NCDE. From the view of USFWS, for success we must have connectivity and movement. So, NCDE actions affect SCYE, please keep that in mind when NCDE moves forward. Part of recovery is establishing connectivity!

Anderson: Connectivity is fine—just don't get into the specifics.

Farnsworth: Felt that there is still a need to go forward with the letter. Subcommittee cares and wants to weigh in.

Pozzanghera: Support a letter coming from SCYE. First draft excellent start. IDF&G / WDFW all have comments.

All: More focus on delisting rather than connectivity. Connectivity discussion was more prescriptive than desired. Would like to see focus on connectivity as well as support for delisting of NCDE.

Farnsworth: Some thoughts...

- ✓ Original intent: we exist and we care
- ✓ Interested in connectivity!
- ✓ In order for us to get to the place where we want to be, suggest a joint subcommittee meeting!
- **Challenge:** Subcommittees aren't decision making bodies. Send invitation to have joint meeting (Summit) so members from both subcommittees can have that conversation. Need to include National Recovery Team Leader (Chris Servheen) and others?

Steve: Consider letter that talks about connectivity but also serves as a forum to invite NCDE to a joint summit. Use as foundation for future conversations. Lydia will work with Wayne to craft a brief letter:

- ✓ We exist and care about outcomes and want to engage
- ✓ We're very interested in connectivity (it is the recovery plan after all)
- ✓ Have a conversation about connectivity (and other things) as you move forward with delisting
- ✓ We propose a joint meeting to discuss things of mutual interests
- ✓ Send copy to main IGBC as well
- ✓ Mary will contact the Chair for the NCDE to discuss possibility of joint meeting

WDFW-Proposed Letter of Support for Bear Management Specialist/Bear Ranger in WA portion of Selkirk Recovery Zone (S. Pozzanghera).

- ✓ Discussion at spring IGBC meeting to draft a letter to new director at WDFW to discuss support/funding for a specialist/ranger to support grizzly bear recovery efforts in northeast WA. Steve will discuss internally with new players and draft a letter for subcommittee review in early January 2016.
- ✓ Additional discussion about creation of a bear ranger position which might be the ideal solution for spring-fall presence when bears are active and recreation is at its peak.

Update of 3-year plan (2015-2017) for Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk ecosystems: Please see summary document. Re-wording required for the following to help clarify intent (Wayne/Mary/Lydia to rework):

Begin development of a Conservation Strategy(s), including accomplishment of:

- Making a recommendation to the USFWS on strategy for one or both Ecosystems
- Development of a Framework

Review of 2015 Accomplishments and 2016 Priority Actions. (See final documents)

Comments/Questions

In regards to the draft NCDE connectivity letter: important to make a statement that

- Habitat Connectivity ≠ Population Connectivity

What are the bears in the ecosystem doing now?

- Females are moving to more "den-like" habitat in the SCYE
- NCDE biologists are observing denning behavior in that ecosystem

Additional discussion concerning how agencies would deal with future bear situations like the Cabinet augmentation bear that moved outside the recovery zone to the CDA ranger district.

Action Items

- ✓ Thank you letter to the Kalispel Tribe of Indians for hosting the Fall meeting
- ✓ Pursue coordinating a subcommittee meeting in tandem with the NCDE IGBC subcommittee
- ✓ WDFW (Steve P.) will draft a letter in support of funding for a bear ranger type of position located in the Washington portion of the Selkirk recovery zone (by early January)
- ✓ Wayne and Lydia will draft a letter concerning NCDE connectivity

Spring Meeting: To Be Announced