

Charter

Yellowstone Grizzly Coordinating Committee

Mission:

With delisting and implementation of the *Final Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem*, the Yellowstone Grizzly Coordinating Committee (YGCC) will replace the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. The YGCC will be the stand-alone coordinating body to implement the December 2016 *Conservation Strategy* and any future versions, amendments, and/or management documents that promote the exchange of information and collaborative stewardship to maintain the Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear population.

Purpose, Duties and Scope:

Primary activities:

- Coordinate implementation of the *Final Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem*, December 2016 or subsequent revisions to the *Conservation Strategy*.
- Ensure that population and habitat data are collected annually by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST¹), as specified in the *Conservation Strategy*.
- Evaluate to assess the current status of the grizzly bear population, and reported to the managers on a regular basis through participation in YGCC meetings and on an ad hoc basis as appropriate;
- Share information and implement management actions in a coordinated fashion;
- Inform the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) about the Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear population via reports by the YGCC Chair to IGBC, as requested or appropriate.
- Identify shortfalls in management, research, and financial needs and encourage each agency to commit the necessary financial resources and budgets to successfully implement the coordinated *Conservation Strategy*;
- Implement a Biology and Monitoring Review as necessary and recommend whether the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should conduct a status review as appropriate, per the specific direction in the *Conservation Strategy*, to ensure agency responsiveness to changing circumstances of the grizzly or its habitat in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem;

¹ Representatives of the U.S. Forest Service; National Park Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Wyoming Game & Fish Department; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; Idaho Fish & Game Department; and the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes Wind River Fish & Game Department join the lead U.S. Geological Survey on the IGBST.

- Provide annual reports from the states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming and National Park units on grizzly bear mortality.

YGCC authorities include:

- Make recommendations to signatory agencies for revision to or amendment of the *Conservation Strategy* based on the best biological data and the best available science. Any such amendments will be subject to public review and comment, and must be approved by all of the signatory agencies to the December 2016 *Conservation Strategy*.
- Establish meeting rules, procedures, and chairperson election rules for the committee.
- Seek grant opportunities and develop partnerships to further the conservation of the Yellowstone grizzly bear by implementing the *Conservation Strategy*. Each agency is responsible for seeking the necessary funding to carry out the tasks assigned in the *Conservation Strategy*.

YGCC does not supersede the authority of the management agencies beyond specific actions agreed to as signatories of the *Conservation Strategy*. The inclusion of tribal representatives on the YGCC is to enhance communication and coordination on grizzly bear conservation and management, and does not in any way replace federal agency responsibilities to consult with tribes on a government-to-government basis regarding their respective unit activities and relationships.

Two teams, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) and the Information and Education Team (I&E), will perform necessary tasks and report to the YGCC. YGCC may establish other standing or ad hoc teams by a majority vote of the members.

Roles and responsibilities of teams:

Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team: Conducts research and monitoring that provides information needed by various agencies for immediate and long-term management of grizzly bears inhabiting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Current quantitative data on grizzly bears are required for formulation of management decisions that will insure survival of the population. IGBST annual reports and presentations at semi-annual meetings of the YGCC are intended to facilitate the timely transfer of research and monitoring results and perspectives to management of the population.

Information and Education Team²: Supports development, implementation, and dissemination of coordinated information useful for people who visit, live, work, and recreate in bear habitat to minimize bear-human conflicts and provide for human safety while building support for viable bear populations. The team will work with all affected interests to ensure consistency of information, efficient funding strategies, identify and target audiences, develop

² Public affairs personnel from U.S. Forest Service Regions 1, 2 & 4; Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks; the Bureau of Land Management (WY, ID, and MT); and each state wildlife agency

partnerships, identify new tools for implementation, and ensure that information made available is open and responsive to public concerns.

Organizational Structure:

The chair will serve a two-year term. A vice chair will be elected at the beginning of the chair's term by a majority vote of the members. The vice chair will assume the chair upon completion of the chair's term. The YGCC will strive for consensus but when consensus cannot be achieved, decisions of the YGCC will be determined by a majority vote of members present, except decisions to change the conservation strategy or this charter, which require agreement by at least three-fourths of the members present, provided the decisions are within the authority of the YGCC as outlined in the *Conservation Strategy*, and do not supersede the authority of the management agencies.

Membership:

This committee will be composed of members from the following agencies, each of whom has one vote:

- Federal
 - National Parks: Yellowstone and Grand Teton (Superintendent or his/her acting/designee)
 - National Forests: Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Bridger-Teton, Caribou-Targhee, Custer-Gallatin, and Shoshone (Forest Supervisors or his/her acting/designee)
 - Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana offices. (Members appointed by State Directors from WY, MT and ID)
- State Wildlife Agencies (Representatives appointed by directors of state agencies)
 - Idaho
 - Wyoming
 - Montana

Local Government

- Idaho Representative (appointed by Idaho Association of Counties)
 - Wyoming Representative (appointed by Wyoming County Commissioners Assoc.)
 - Montana Representative (appointed by Montana Association of Counties).
- Tribal (Members appointed by Tribal Chairs)
- One representative from each of the Shoshone Bannock, Northern Arapaho, and Eastern Shoshone Tribes.

A change in membership of the YGCC, including addition of other entities having habitat or grizzly bear management responsibilities in the GYE constitutes a change in this charter, which requires approval of at least three fourths of the members present.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator and leader of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team will serve as technical advisors and ex-officio members of the committee. Both will attend meetings and serve as consultants for technical expertise to the YGCC.

Meetings:

YGCC will meet at least two times annually. Public notification of the meetings will be made by the chairperson or his/her representative. YGCC meetings will be open to the public. Details on locations and times of meetings and other business issues will be determined at the first meeting. A quorum is satisfied by more than 50% of the voting members (or their designee) being present; Decisions require a majority of voting members present, except for recommended changes to the conservation strategy or changes to the Charter, which requires approval by at least three-fourths of the members present. Members may participate remotely via video or telephone conference when available.

Amendments:

This charter may be amended with a vote of at least 3/4 of the members.

<u>12/9/17</u> Date	<u>May D'Arena</u> Idaho State Office Representative
<u>12/1/17</u> Date	<u>Cornelia A. Hudson</u> Bureau of Land Management Montana State Office Representative <u>Debra Munk</u> Bureau of Land Management <u>Mary Jo Ruggell, BLM WY STATE DIRECTOR</u> Wyoming State Office Representative
<u>12/1/17</u> Date	<u>Steve Miller</u> Commissioner Idaho Association of Counties
<u>12/1/17</u> Date	<u>James P. Hart</u> Commissioner Montana Association of Counties <u>Loren Grosskopf</u> Commissioner Wyoming Association of Counties
<u> </u> Date	<u> </u> Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
<u> </u> Date	<u> </u> Northern Arapaho Tribe
<u> </u> Date	<u> </u> Eastern Shoshone Tribe