



FIVE-YEAR (2018-2022) PLAN

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND 2018 PLANNED ACTIONS

In 2016, the IGBC agreed to update and coordinate five-year plans for the Executive Committee and each of the subcommittees. During 2017, a planning effort, led by the Wildlife Management Institute, consolidated and reviewed multiple prior documents as well as the goals, objectives, strategies, actions, and responsibilities of the IGBC member agencies. The result of this process is documented here.

The first section of this plan addresses several range-wide issues that affect all the listed ecosystems. Within that section, issues are broken down into Policy, Planning, Management, and Research themes. For each theme, one or more goals have been identified. Each goal is a general statement of the desired outcome of the combined efforts of the IGBC over the period 2018 – 2022. For each goal, one or more objectives are listed. Objectives are specific statements that describe measurable results, typically with an associated timeline, which – if achieved – will advance conservation toward its related goal. For most objectives, one or more planned actions for 2018 are listed. The entity with lead responsibility for implementing the action is identified in parentheses at the end of each action.

Subsequent sections of the plan document the goals, objectives and planned actions for each of the ecosystems and for the Information and Education Subcommittee. IGBC member agencies and other interested parties are encouraged to review the goals, objectives and planned actions frequently to both guide and monitor progress toward the ultimate goal of the IGBC – recovery, delisting, and ongoing conservation of grizzly bear in the conterminous United States.

RANGE-WIDE ISSUES

POLICY

Goal #1: Increase political support and resources for grizzly bear recovery and delisting

Objective: Obtain majority support among elected and appointed officials for grizzly bear recovery in all ecosystems by 2022.

2018 Planned Actions:

1. Schedule briefings in conjunction with North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference (**Executive Committee**)
2. Keep governors' offices informed (**State Agency Directors**)
3. Maintain Tribal representation on the subcommittee. (**Ecosystem Subcommittees**)

Objective: Increase funding committed to grizzly bear recovery and delisting by >10% over 2018 levels by 2022.

2018 Planned Actions: Explore funding options and report back opportunities to Executive Committee (**IGBC Exec. Asst.**)

PLANNING

Goal #1: Update the grizzly bear recovery plan

Objective: Review recovery plan and recovery criteria for listed ecosystems by 12/31/2018.

2018 Planned Actions: Review recovery criteria for NCDE (**FWS GB Recovery Program**)

Objective: Implement appropriate changes to recovery plan by 7/31/ 2020

2018 Planned Actions: Implement appropriate changes to NCDE recovery criteria (**FWS GB Recovery Program**).

Goal #2: Increase attention to recovery in Cabinet-Yaak, Selkirk, North Cascades and Bitterroot Ecosystems

Objective: Hold at least one summer meeting in each ecosystem by 2022.

2018 Planned Actions: Arrange Summer 2018 meeting in Polson (**IGBC Exec. Asst.**)

Objective: Increase the proportion of each meeting dedicated to these ecosystems to > 50% by 2020.

2018 Planned Actions: Structure meeting agendas to focus on these ecosystems (IGBC Chair, Co-Chair, Exec. Asst.)

Objective: Obtain additional funding for recovery actions in these ecosystems.

2018 Planned Actions: Explore funding options and report back opportunities to Executive Committee (IGBC Exec. Asst.)

MANAGEMENT

Goal #1: Maintain or enhance connectivity between ecosystems and with Canadian populations to provide effective two-way genetic exchange

Objective: Renew IGBC Commitment to maintaining linkage in 2018

2018 Planned Actions: Update linkage MOU for review & signatures (IGBC Exec. Asst.)

Objective: Document and rank potential linkage zones between recovery zones by 2019.

2018 Planned Actions:

1. Explore potential to apply methodology of Peck et al (2017) to identify pathways between NCDE and Bitterroot (**NCDE Subcommittee**)
2. Monitor bears to see where there is use of the linkage areas (MFWP, FWS GB Recovery Program, IDFG, WGFD);
3. Direct a task team from the S/CY to evaluate predicted linkage areas from Proctor et al 2015 and prepare draft priorities for subcommittee review (**S-CY Subcommittee**).

Objective: Implement measures to improve connectivity in > 25% of priority linkage zones by 2022.

2018 Planned Actions:

1. Support conservation actions to promote or maintain linkage in these predicted linkage areas on a priority area basis (**Ecosystem Subcommittees**);
2. Implement successful Forest Legacy programs and support conservation measures in priority linkage areas (**USFS**);
3. Initiate contact with MDT and IDT in regard to holding a workshop similar to the one WY held in 2017 (IGBC Exec. Asst.).

Goal #2: Prevent food conditioning of grizzly bears

Objective: Implement appropriate and effective attractant management on all public lands within designated grizzly bear range by 2022.

2018 Planned Actions:

1. District personnel will continue education and enforcement efforts regarding the Kootenai National Forest forest-wide attractant storage order (**Kootenai NF**);
2. Compile information on options to reduce inconsistency in food storage orders and report at the Summer meeting (**Task group headed by Dave Schmid**);
3. Secure 2-3 waste transfer sites in Lincoln or Sanders County, plan for how to secure those remaining within the CYE, and identify more attractant sites (**MFWP**).

Objective: Reduce anthropogenic food sources available to grizzly bears on private lands within Recovery Zones by 50% from 2018 levels by 2022.

2018 Planned Actions: Continue support of DOW electric fencing program through I&E grant (**WMI**)

Objective: Increase the availability of bear-resistant food storage containers annually.

2018 Planned Actions: Continue bear-resistant container program with funding from IGBC and GWDC (**WMI**).

Goal #3: Implement effective, science-informed motorized access management across all recovery zones

Objective: Review the status of access management, including "gaps" or inconsistencies in all recovery zones by 2020.

2018 Planned Actions: None

Objective: Resolve inconsistencies and eliminate any gaps by 2022.

2018 Planned Actions: None

RESEARCH

Goal #1: Improve the accuracy and precision of population size and trend monitoring

Objective: Develop a method by 2020 to estimate total grizzly bear population size and lambda that allows detection of change in population trend with >80% power.

2018 Planned Actions: Convene workshop on Integrated Population Models; seek funding (FWS GB Recovery Office).

Goal #2: Improve understanding of vegetation management to enhance grizzly bear habitat

Objective: Identify silviculture treatments that enhance habitat value for grizzly bears by 12/31/2021.

2018 Planned Actions: None

NORTHERN CONTINENTAL DIVIDE ECOSYSTEM

Goal #1: Complete the delisting process and transition to management of a delisted population

Objective: Finalize the Conservation Strategy by 4/30/2018

2018 Planned Actions:

1. Finalize the Conservation Strategy (NCDE Subcommittee);
2. Continue trend monitoring (NCDE Study Team);
3. Finalize BNSF HCP (FWS);
4. Submit Final Conservation Strategy for approval (NCDE Subcommittee Chair).

Objective: Define the DPS by 4/30/2018

2018 Planned Actions: Conduct DPS analysis (FWS GB Recovery Program)

Objective: Update recovery criteria, if necessary, by 8/31/2018

2018 Planned Actions: Finalize Habitat criteria (FWS GB Recovery Program)

Objective: Publish a proposed delisting rule by 8/31/2018

2018 Planned Actions: Complete status review by 9/30/18; publish proposed rule if warranted (FWS GB Recovery Program)

Objective: Finalize the delisting rule and begin implementation of the Conservation Strategy by 12/31/2019

2018 Planned Actions: None

Goal #2: Reduce human-bear conflicts and public safety concerns in areas newly-occupied by bears

Objective: Increase human-bear safety outreach annually in areas newly occupied by grizzly bears

2018 Planned Actions:

1. Continue outreach efforts in communities in and around the NCDE (**NCDE Subcommittee**);
2. Complete Pinkam dumpsters project in spring, 2018. (**NCDE Subcommittee**)

Objective: Reduce livestock depredation from 2018 levels by 2022 across the ecosystem

2018 Planned Actions:

1. Continue outreach efforts in communities in and around the NCDE (**NCDE Subcommittee**);
2. Respond appropriately to livestock depredations. (**MFWP**)

Objective: Reduce bear access to stored grain from 2018 levels by 2022 on the Rocky Mountain Front

2018 Planned Actions: Raise funds to purchase a large vacuum truck to clean up grain spills. (**NCDE Subcommittee**)

Goal #3: Improve conditions that allow interchange and dispersal between NCDE and Bitterroot, Cabinet-Yaak, and Yellowstone Ecosystems and Canada

Objective: Protect and improve habitat security in Salish and Nine-mile connectivity areas

2018 Planned Actions:

1. Increase monitoring of highway 93 crossing structures next year (**CSKT**);
2. Continue to partner with land trusts and work with FWP's Habitat Montana program to protect important wildlife habitats (**NCDE Subcommittee**);
3. Work with Vital Ground to implement bear habitat conservation program (**NCDE Subcommittee**);
4. Monitor collared bears to detect use of connectivity zones (**FWP, FWS, CSKT, GB Recovery Program**);
5. Install food hanging structures at dispersed campsites (**NPS, USFS**).

YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM

Goal #1: Successfully transition to management of a delisted population

Objective: Prevail in litigation challenging delisting by 2020.

2018 Planned Actions: Provide support to litigation (FWS GB Recovery Program and DOJ).

Objective: Maintain contact and coordination with the YGCC

2018 Planned Actions: Continue to invite participation of YGCC with IGBC. (IGBC Exec. Asst.)

Objective Fulfill ESA-mandated requirement for monitoring recovered status through 2022

2018 Planned Actions: Continue to monitor compliance with the Conservation Strategy and report to the IGBC. (IGBST and USFS)

BITTERROOT ECOSYSTEM

Goal #1: Document presence/absence of grizzly bears in the ecosystem

Objective: Systematically monitor areas most likely to be colonized first or where credible sightings occur

2018 Planned Actions: None

Objective: Opportunistically monitor in other areas each year

2018 Planned Actions: Focus on Interstate 90 crossing points, Lower Clark Fork, and Ninemile area in MT (MFWP)

Goal #2: Promote natural recovery of the population through immigration

Objective: Implement measures to improve connectivity in > 50% of linkage areas by 2020

2018 Planned Actions: Continue work on Nez-Clear NF and Salmon-Challis NF Forest Plan revisions (USFS)

Objective: Increase landowner and community tolerance for grizzly bears in linkage zones and the recovery zone by 2022

2018 Planned Actions: Employ Bear Rangers in Bitterroot and Lolo NFs, if funded (USFS)

Objective: Prevent human-caused mortality throughout the plan period

2018 Planned Actions: Employ Bear Rangers in Bitterroot and Lolo NFs, if funded (USFS)

NORTH CASCADES ECOSYSTEM

Goal: Establish and implement clear direction for recovery

Objective: Complete the North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and issue a Record of Decision by June 2018

2018 Planned Actions: On hold

Objective: Inform the public about the EIS process and ROD

2018 Planned Actions: Publish articles in print and social media about progress on the EIS. (NCE Subcommittee)

Objective: Develop international agreements, if necessary, to implement the ROD

2018 Planned Actions: On hold

Objective: Secure resources to implement the ROD, if necessary, beginning in Fiscal year 2019

2018 Planned Actions: On hold

Goal: Maintain or enhance habitat conditions for Grizzly Bears

Objective: Reaffirm the no-net habitat loss policy by 12/31/2018

2018 Planned Actions: Obtain signatures or commitments to sign the no-net habitat loss policy by 12/31/2018 (NCE Subcommittee)

Objective: Complete ecosystem-wide database of bear-resistant food storage and waste receptacles by 2019

2018 Planned Actions: None

Objective: Standardize signage/language on signs by 2019

2018 Planned Actions: Work toward one standardized sign or language across agencies; follow up with IGBC to see what is done in other ecosystems (NCE Subcommittee)

Objective: Expand food storage orders to all National Forests by 2020

2018 Planned Actions: None

Objective: Increase availability of bear-resistant food storage and waste receptacles

2018 Planned Actions: Place the 10 dumpsters to replace non-bear-resistant dumpsters - 5 on the Entiat District and 5 on the Wenatchee River District (**Okanogan – Wenatchee NF**); NPS will install the new dumpsters, garbage cans & food storage lockers (**NPS**); continue to reduce the

availability of anthropogenic food sources/ attractants throughout the ecosystem (landowners, ag groups, communities, etc.) as part of daily operations (**WDFW**).

Goal: Document presence of Grizzly Bears

Objective: Verify reports of grizzly bear sightings within 72 hours

2018 Planned Actions: Verify reports of grizzly bear sightings as soon as practical (**NCE Subcommittee**)

SELKIRK ECOSYSTEM

Goal #1: Increase population size and distribution in the U.S. portion of the ecosystem

Objective: Limit human-caused mortality, including management removals, to no more than 2 bears from 2018-2022.

2018 Planned Actions:

1. Continue providing presentations about bear identification, bear spray, and properly securing attractants (**WDFW, USFS, IDFG, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Kalispel Tribe, FWS GB recovery program**);
2. Continue some level of field patrols during hunting seasons to post bear awareness signs and interview hunters as well as other outdoor recreationists (**USFS, IDFG, WDFW**);
3. Secure waste transfer sites and increase use of bear safe garbage containers with Pend Oreille waste collectors (**WDFW, Kalispel Tribe**);
4. Provide training to waste transfer site employees about bear safety and the proper use of bear pepper spray. (**WDFW**);
5. Conduct at least 25 visitor contact patrols by uniformed officers. (**Colville NF, Idaho Panhandle NF**);
6. Install at least 20 food lockers: 4 in Sullivan Lake Airstrip, 6 in Panhandle CG, 5 in South Skookum CG, 5 in East Sullivan CG. (**Colville NF**);
7. Research changes to solid waste transfer station on Reservation (**Kalispel Tribe**);
8. Install 3 additional Food Storage Poles (**Idaho Panhandle NF**);
9. Continue working with local garbage haulers and the public to demonstrate bear-resistant garbage cans and to encourage their use as a best management practice for both sanitation and wildlife conservation (**WDFW**);
10. Increase public outreach and education to landowners and communities. (**WDFW, IDF&G, FWS GB Recovery Office, USFS**);
11. Improve security of waste transfer sites in ID and WA (**S-CY Subcommittee**)

12. Maintain or enhance hunter education efforts regarding bear ID and use of bear spray **(IDF&G, WDFW)**
13. Eliminate food attractants on public and private property. **(WDFW, IDF&G, USFS, FWS GB Recovery Office)**
14. Support loaner programs and cost share for electric fencing and bear resistant garbage can use. **(S-CY Subcommittee)**

Objective: Document population growth rate and changes in distribution between 2018 and 2022

2018 Planned Actions:

1. Continued “known fate” monitoring through radio collared bears similar to programs in NCDE and CYE to provide trend estimates that are comparable **(FWS GB Recovery Program)**
2. Continue rub tree and hair snag corrals with trail cameras to monitor occupancy of BMUs, numbers and distribution of females with young and identify migrants that contribute to population linkage and genetic diversity. **(FWS GB Recovery Program)**
3. Identify the most effective population trend monitoring procedure **(FWS GB Recovery Program);**
4. Secure funding needed to implement monitoring **(Colville NF, Idaho Panhandle NF, Lolo NF, FWS);**
5. Implement occupancy monitoring in all BMUs and appropriate areas outside recovery zone boundaries **(FWS GB Recovery Program);**
6. Continue to deploy hair-snare corrals in the WA portion of the Selkirk Ecosystem **(Colville NF, WDFW)**

Goal #2: Enhance transboundary cooperation and coordination of recovery

Objective: Hold at least one meeting every 2 years in Canada

2018 Planned Actions: Attempt to schedule a meeting in B.C. **(S-CY Subcommittee Chair)**

Objective: Share information annually on the status of bear recovery and management

2018 Planned Actions: Maintain regular communication between U.S. and Canadian members **(S-CY Subcommittee)**

CABINET-YAAK ECOSYSTEM

Goal #1: Increase population size and distribution

Objective: Augment the population with at least five females and two males that establish home ranges in the recovery zone between 2018 and 2022.

2018 Planned Actions: Capture and relocate 1-2 bears that meet the criteria of the program to Cabinet Mountains. (FWP, FWS GB Recovery Program,)

Objective: Limit human-caused mortality, including management removals, to no more than 4 bears from 2018-2022.

2018 Planned Actions:

1. Continue to engage with community regarding augmentation program (MFWP, FWS GB Recovery Program);
2. Continue to promote the use of bear spray, increase the number of bear spray training programs offered, attend public events and festivals (MFWP, FWS GB Recovery Program, USFS, KTI);
3. Continue human-bear conflict response and prevention on private lands and with residents (MFWP);
4. Secure waste transfer sites at Pinkham Creek and West Kootenai by end of 2018 (USFS, Lincoln County);
5. Continue to work with Lincoln County on plans to secure the remaining 2 waste transfer sites in the CYE (MFWP, FWS GB Recovery Program, USFS);
6. Continue to work with hunter ed instructors to provide additional bear information for their classes (MFWP);
7. Increase the number of bear spray training classes offered (MFWP);
8. Continue all proactive and reactive aspects of CYE bear specialist job/program (MFWP);
9. Continue education and enforcement efforts regarding Forest-wide attractant storage order (Kootenai NF: Ranger districts);
10. Install food hanging structures at several dispersed camp sites (Kootenai NF Rexford/Fortine RD).

Objective: Document population growth rate and changes in distribution between 2018 and 2022.

2018 Planned Actions:

1. Continued “known fate” monitoring through radio collared bears similar to programs in NCDE and Selkirks to provide trend estimates that are comparable (FWS GB Recovery Program)

2. Continue rub tree and hair snag corrals with trail cameras to monitor occupancy of BMUs, numbers and distribution of females with young, and identify migrants that contribute to population linkage and genetic diversity. (**FWS GB Recovery Program**)

Goal #2: Maintain or enhance connectivity within the recovery zone to achieve recovery criteria occupancy standards

Objective: Document and rank potential linkage zones between secure habitat areas by 2019.

2018 Planned Actions:

1. Monitor bears to see where there is use of the linkage areas (**MFWP, FWS GB Recovery Program**);
2. Evaluate predicted linkage areas from Proctor et al 2015 and prepare draft priorities for subcommittee review (**NCDE Study Team**);
3. Monitor permeability of linkage areas (**MFWP, FWS GB Recovery Program**).

Objective: Implement measures to improve connectivity in > 50% of priority linkage zones by 2022

2018 Planned Actions:

1. Support conservation actions to promote or maintain linkage in predicted linkage areas on a priority area basis (**S-CY Subcommittee**);
2. Implement successful Forest Legacy programs (**USFS**).

Goal #3: Apply results of research to habitat management

Objective: Improve project planning to maintain or promote grizzly bear habitat

2018 Planned Actions: Utilize new habitat quality maps for timber sales, access management, or other projects to improve outcomes for grizzly bear habitat in S/CY (**USFS**)

Goal #4: Increase coordination with Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem

Objective: Have at least one joint meeting of the subcommittees every other year

2018 Planned Actions: Attempt to schedule a joint S-CY/NCDE meeting (**S-CY Subcommittee Chair**).

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Note: The I&E Subcommittee is undergoing a change of leadership. Prior to the summer, 2018 meeting the committee will review the following goals and objectives; propose revisions as appropriate and identify 2018 Planned Actions.

Goal #1: Increase public awareness of and support for grizzly bear recovery and delisting

Objective: Identify knowledge gaps and public concerns about recovery and delisting by 2019.

2018 Planned Actions:

Objective: Reduce knowledge gaps and increase public support for recovery and delisting over 2018 levels by 2022.

2018 Planned Actions:

Goal #2: Increase public awareness of the importance of connectivity and support for maintaining linkage zones

Objectives: Determine level of public awareness and support for connectivity in ID and MT by 2019.

2018 Planned Actions:

Objective: Increase levels of public support for connectivity by > 20% over 2018 levels by 2022.

2018 Planned Actions:

Goal #3: Increase public understanding and acceptability of access management

Objective: Identify the levels of public understanding and acceptability of access management standards by 2019.

2018 Planned Actions:

Objective: Increase public understanding and acceptability of access management by 25% over 2018 levels by 2022.

2018 Planned Actions:

Goal #4: Reduce human injury and bear mortality related to conflicts

Objective: Increase public awareness of expanding grizzly bear distribution and reasonable steps to promote coexistence by 20% over 2018 levels by 2022.

2018 Planned Actions:

Objective: Increase the proportion of hunters, hikers, and outdoor recreationists that carry bear spray by 50% over 2018 levels by 2022.

2018 Planned Actions: