

Ecosystem Subcommittee Meeting 11-22-2019

Welcome & Introductions

Chuck Mark, Wayne Kasworm, Steve Nadeau, Hillary Cooley, Erika Mickelson, Carolyn Upton, Seth Carbonari, Matt Anderson, Michael Howell, Heather Stokes, Jennifer Fortin-Noreus, Chris Hoffman, Rebecca Mowry, Erin Edge, Bonnie Rice, Claudia Narcisco, Cheryl Probert, J.J. Teare, Kristin Combs, Jim DeMaagd, Jamie Jonkel, Eli Hampson, Brett Barsalou

Sandy Fisher, Allyssa Charles, Eric Goldman, Heidi Sessley, Michelle Dieterich, Josh Osra, Blake?, Andrea Santasiere

Review Accomplishments from Proposed Program of Work

- See Excel spreadsheet: Revised 5-Year Plan Goals_Objectives_Strategies...11-22-2019
- Wayne uses a Canadian independent genetics lab to verify a grizzly vs. black bear DNA, and offered coordinate sending samples from other Recovery Areas to the lab.

Action Item

- ID F&G and MT FWP: send details of accomplishments to the Chair.

Structure of the Committee

- County Commissioners, ID F&G, MT FWP, USFS
- Trying to have representatives from Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock, and CSKT tribes
- Current Subcommittee: (see Chuck's handout, add Cheryl Probert)
- Subcommittee Chair is a 2 year position, and up this year. Current Chair (Chuck) is willing to stay on for another year to assist incoming Chair. Ideas for Vice Chair were proposed by subcommittee. Steve & Cheryl nominated J.J. Teare, who agreed to the position.

Action Items

- Chuck, Carolyn, and Cheryl: Reach out to Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock, and CSKT tribes for representatives on the subcommittee
- Chuck and J.J.: Review Vice and Chair position duties and prepare J.J. to become Chair.

USFWS Update on Bear 927

- Power point by Wayne Kasworm, USFWS
- Overview: 22 grizzlies augmented in the Cabinet Mountains within the Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Recovery Area since 1990 three of whom are known to have reproduced. Ongoing genetic sampling will help determine success of augmentation program by showing gene flow and effective linkages in Recovery Areas. 2-year old male grizzly 927 was fitted with a radio collar and released in the Cabinet Mountains in 2018, but months later crossed the Clark Fork River and was captured at a black bear bait site. He was

returned to the Recovery Area, but traveled back to the bait site area before returning to the Recovery Area and dened for the winter within 5 miles of his initial release site. After emerging from his den he crossed Hwy 200 in April 2019, I-90 near DeBorgia in May, Hwy 12 near Lolo Pass in June, spent June-August in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness before beginning to return in mid-September, and is currently east of the Cabinet-Yaak Recovery Area. Other grizzlies in the augmentation program have also made journeys outside of the Recovery Area. The monitoring program emphasizes there is a direct relationship between where the grizzlies travel and places of sanitation concerns (i.e. garbage removal or disposal, food attractants, and black bear baiting sites).

Increased Information & Education (I&E)

- Previous conversations identified the need for robust efforts and strategic I&E plans. Need a baseline I&E structure in the Bitterroot Valley between the county, NGOs, USFS, MT FWP, and partners to provide consistent public messaging and outreach while not duplicating efforts. Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council agrees this is timely work which can help inform their efforts. I&E contacts: J.J. at ID F&G, Mike Pruss on the Nez-Clear National Forest, Kim Annis at MT FWP.
- I&E Working Group was formed last meeting off of the Ecosystems Subcommittee. Need to include Bitterroot Disposal. Jamie & Erin were identified as conveners for the working group, and will help identify additional participants.

Action Items

- Jamie, Erin, & Chuck: Send out email inviting potential I&E working group participants, including groups who have successfully worked on bear issues. Set winter meeting date. Initial meeting is to brainstorm I&E ideas for consistent baseline efforts across entities.
- State and Federal Agencies: Need guidelines and clear expectations from agency leadership for committees, especially regarding bear baiting. Provide guidelines and expectations to I&E working group conveners and Chair.

Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council (GBAC)

- Overview: The Council offers a public engagement forum to consider strategic objectives surrounding human influenced grizzly bear management challenges which will be provided to the Governor as long-term vision recommendations for bear management and conservation efforts in Montana. Recommendations from Council will be reported to the Governor's Office by August 2020. Staff from University of Montana's Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy program plan and facilitate meetings which are open to public and offer small discussion sessions for public participation. [GBAC website](#) has a public engagement and comment portal, and meeting summaries will be posted soon after approved by the Council. During meetings, an agency support team (MT FWP, US F&WS, USFS) is present to advise Council on law and policy. Previous meetings included a trial run of recording the meeting for additional public engagement.
- Next meeting: Dec 4-5th at the University of Montana's University Center in room 330. Topics: Conflict prevention & response

Preliminary ID 2020 Program of Work

- 2020 Program of Work was sent out to committee members.

Action Item

- All: Provide 2020 Program of Work feedback to Chuck for mid-Dec IGBC meeting.

Steve Nadeau

- His book *Journey of the Bitterroot Grizzly* will be available spring 2020.
- Need direction from Idaho agencies' leadership about sign message, posting locations, etc. Then move to outreach strategies to address issue of who is to blame if a grizzly is shot and there was no signage, or the message is there are no bears.
- A bear was or still is present on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. Need to decide how & when to inform the public. In the spring, there should be signs at trailheads when hunters are starting to bait for black bears in May.

IGBC Meeting

- Meeting dates: Dec 16-18th in Missoula. Monday afternoon is for the Executive Committee and closed to the public. Additional information can be found on the [IGBC website](#).
- Meeting topics will include: reports on education outreach, review of Draft Ecosystem Charter, effects on non-motorized recreationists, grizzly mortality & conflict trends, and a report out by the subcommittees.