

# IGBC STRATEGIC MEETING REVIEW

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Greater  
Yellowstone  
Coordinating  
Committee

Missoula, MT  
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2019

**BACKGROUND**

# LASTING SOCIETAL IMPACT FROM 1983



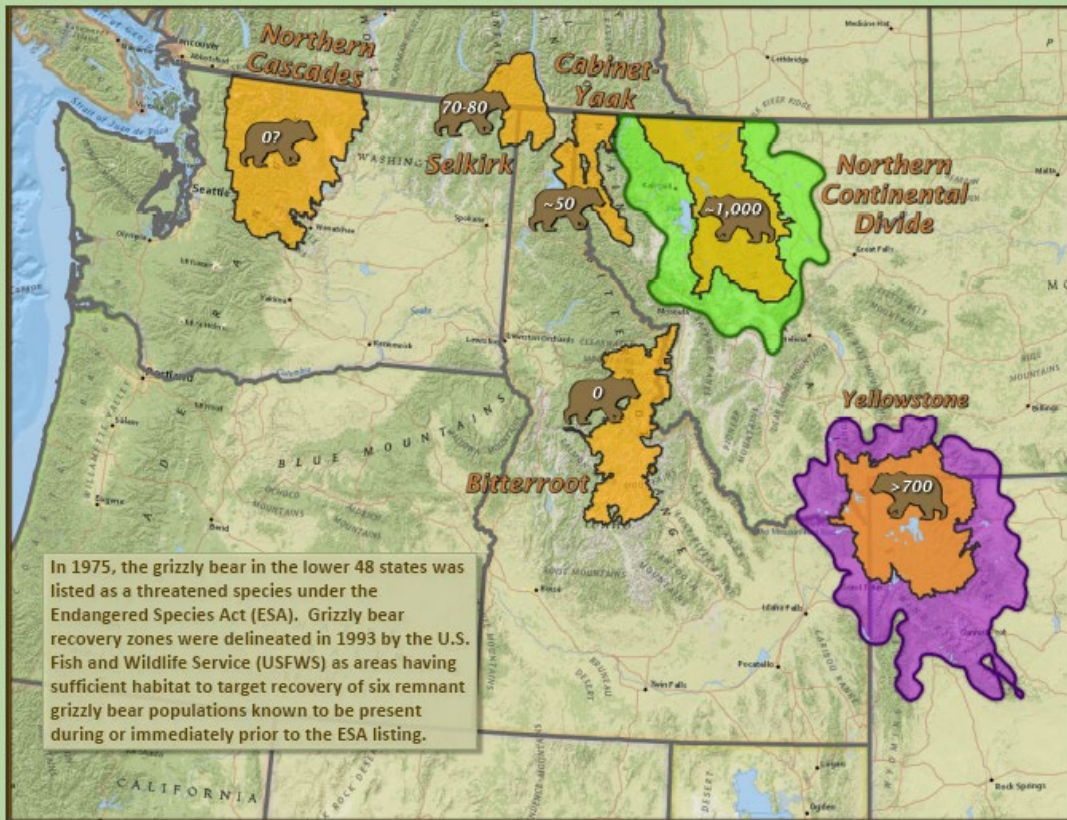
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT  
OF THE INTERIOR AND STATES OF IDAHO, MONTANA, WYOMING, AND WASHINGTON  
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT TO REVISE AND EXPAND THE  
INTERAGENCY GRIZZLY BEAR COMMITTEE

A. Need:

The grizzly bear is listed as a threatened species in the 48 conterminous States under provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. To achieve the recovery of the grizzly bear, it is necessary that all Federal and State agencies with responsibilities for this species coordinate their management and research actions to the greatest extent possible to insure the best utilization of available resources and prevent duplication of effort.

To attain the objectives established by the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan, the United States Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service), the United States Department of the Interior (Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs), and the States of Idaho, Montana; Wyoming, and Washington find it in the best interest of the grizzly bear to revise and expand the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) established in April 1983).

# Grizzly Bear Recovery Zones in the Lower 48 United States



In 1975, the grizzly bear in the lower 48 states was listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Grizzly bear recovery zones were delineated in 1993 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as areas having sufficient habitat to target recovery of six remnant grizzly bear populations known to be present during or immediately prior to the ESA listing.

Recovery Zone
  Northern Continental Divide occupied range
  Yellowstone occupied range

**Northern Continental Divide**  
 The grizzly population in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) consists of approximately 1,000 bears occupying Glacier National Park and adjacent areas in the Bob Marshall Complex of north central Montana. Under protective status, the population has expanded into areas well beyond the NCDE recovery zone.

**Yellowstone**  
 The Yellowstone population of northwest Wyoming, eastern Idaho, and southwest Montana has expanded from its core in Yellowstone National Park into areas well beyond the Yellowstone recovery zone. Currently the population is estimated at more than 700 bears.

**Selkirk**  
 The Selkirk ecosystem encompasses the Selkirk Mountains of northeast Washington, north Idaho, and southern British Columbia. A minimum of 30 individual grizzly bears is estimated for the US portion of the Selkirk population and approximately 100 bears for the entire area.

**Cabinet-Yaak**  
 The Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem encompasses the Yaak River drainage and the Cabinet Mountains of northwest Montana and northern Idaho. The Cabinet-Yaak population is estimated at approximately 50 individual grizzly bears.

**Northern Cascades**  
 The North Cascades ecosystem of north central Washington and south central British Columbia is capable of supporting a self-sustaining population of grizzlies. However, due to slow reproductive rate and other recovery constraints, there may not be any resident grizzly bears within the US portion of the recovery zone. A few individuals may reside in the adjacent British Columbia portion.

**Bitterroot**  
 The Bitterroot recovery ecosystem contains the Bitterroot Mountains of east central Idaho and western Montana. No sightings of grizzly bears have been verified in this area over the last 60 years except for an adult male grizzly bear that was mistakenly killed by a hunter in September 2007.

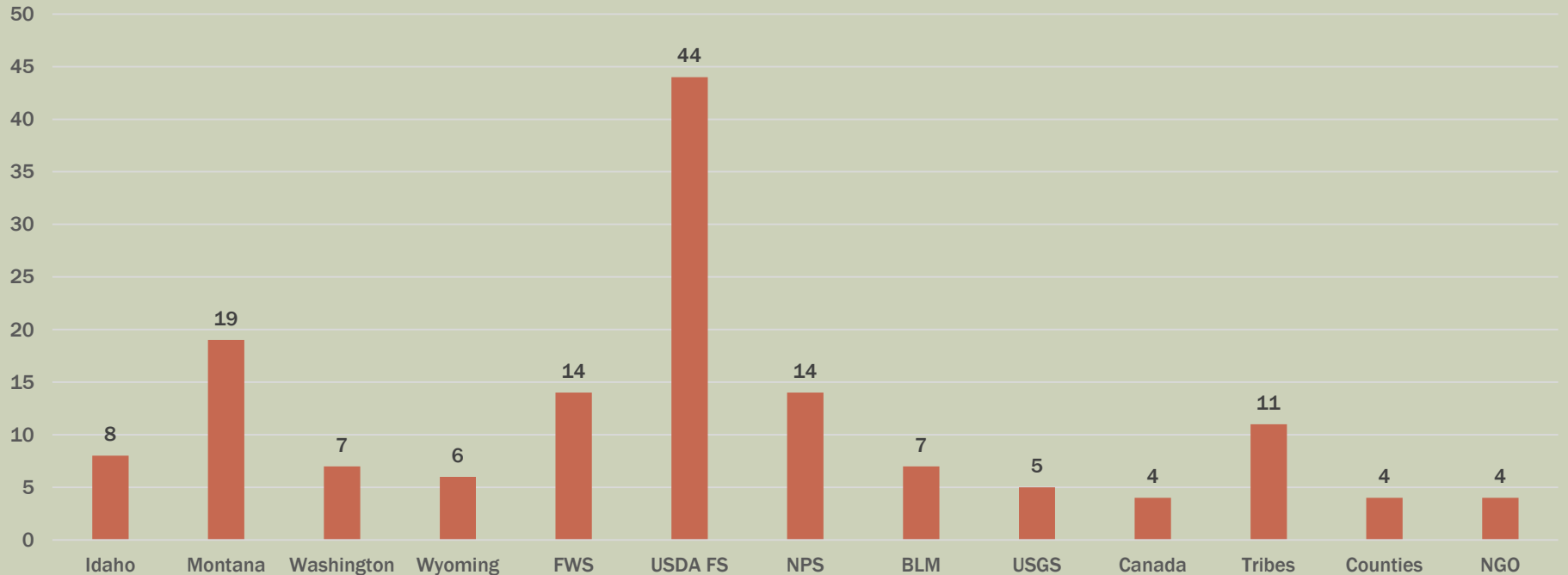
(Information based on 2018 estimates)

# IGBC LOOKING BACK: *LOOKING AHEAD*

Chair	Date	Location	Content
Forsgren USFS	12 Summer	Lowell ID (BES)	IGBC “Tune-up” Team Building Session
	12 Winter	Missoula MT	IGBC Grizzly Bear Hunting Position Statement approved
Talbot, WGFD	13 Summer	Dubois WY (YES)	Upper Green River Field Trip
	13 Winter	Missoula MT	IGBC recommends that FWS proceed with Yellowstone delisting
	14 Summer	Winthrop WA (NCE)	Environmental Learning Center (ELC) Field Trip
	14 Winter	Missoula MT	IGBC certified bear-resistant container testing program review
Whittington NPS	15 Summer	Glacier (NCDE)	Glacier NP Field Trip
	15 Winter	Missoula MT	IGBC FY14-15 Expenditure report reviewed
Unsworth WDFW	16 Summer	Bonnars Ferry ID (S/C-Y)	Overview of proposed Yellowstone rule and conservation strategy
	16 Winter	Missoula MT	Bear spray review findings and recommendations
	17 Summer	Choteau (NCDE)	Recovery to management panel discussion, Hutterite Field Trip
	17 Winter	Missoula MT	Initiated review of food storage orders
Hogan USFWS	18 Summer	Polson (NCDE)	Panel on opportunities for GB connectivity in NW Montana
	18 Winter	Missoula MT	Charter updated for Science Subcommittee
	19 Summer	Missoula MT (NCDE)	Strategic Meeting
	19 Winter	Missoula MT	<b>YOU ARE HERE!</b>
Williams MTFWP	20 Summer	<i>TBD</i>	
	20 Winter	Missoula MT	

# THE IGBC “ENTERPRISE”

Count by Agency (Executive, ES Subcommittees, I&E, and Science)



# IGBC STRATEGIC MEETING

JUNE 2019, SEELEY LAKE, MT



# OUTCOMES



## REFLECTION

- **Reflection: recovered populations in both the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem, effective information and education outreach to reduce human-bear conflicts, development of science based interagency habitat management guidelines, and establishment of a bear-resistant products testing program.**

## STATEMENT OF NEED

- The existence of the committee and its structure is needed now more than ever to help agencies involved in grizzly bear management navigate emerging issues, and to promote and coordinate grizzly bear conservation across all recovery areas.

# MISSION

- Through interagency cooperation, support the recovery, and delisting, and ongoing conservation of grizzly bear populations and their habitats in areas of the western United States through interagency coordination of policy, planning, management, research and communication.

## MEETING STRUCTURE?

- The IGBC recognized a need to improve how it considers issues raised by subcommittees, advisory groups, and the public; and discussed potential changes to the meeting structure to address this need. As IGBC approaches its 40th anniversary, there is a common understanding with all its members that successful grizzly bear recovery and conservation requires a shared responsibility with all parties.

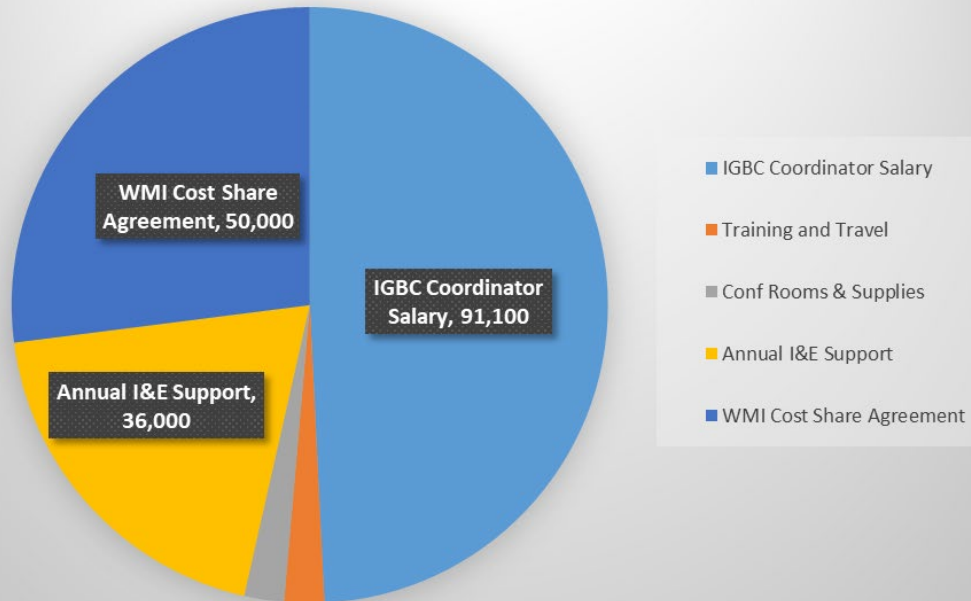
**BREAK**

# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

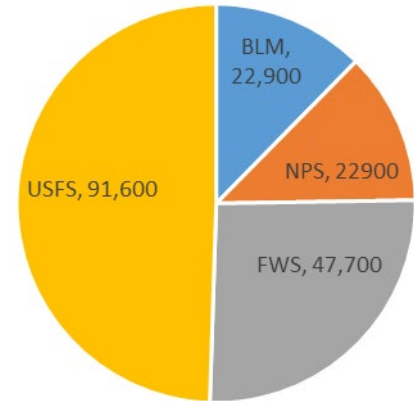
- Executive Committee
- Ecosystem Subcommittees
- I&E / Science Subcommittees
- Coordinator / Advisors
- Others?

# BUDGET

## IGBC Budget FY20



## IGBC Funding Contributions FY20



# OVERARCHING GOALS

- Understand relationships between emerging patterns in recreation and grizzly bear conservation to support effective measures in preventing conflicts and mortalities.
- Identify landscape conditions that allow interchange and dispersal in areas between ecosystems and, where desired and feasible, maintain and enhance those conditions.
- Identify trends and concerns, and support effective preventative measures to reduce human-bear conflicts and human caused mortality.
- Provide strategic support and direction to Bitterroot, Selkirk, Cabinet Yaak, and North Cascades Ecosystems for continued grizzly bear conservation and recovery efforts.
- Support and coordinate integrative approaches to increase effectiveness and accuracy of population monitoring.
- Improve effective communication across all levels of IGBC



# IGBC STRATEGIC MEETING

JUNE 2019, SEELEY LAKE, MT

