IGBC Mortality Review Tasks

1) Produce a preliminary list of priority issues for discussion (June 2019)

2) Develop a list of recommendations that address issues (Dec 2019)

3) Develop a final implementation strategy (June 2021)
Proportion of Grizzly Bear Mortalities over two Decades

- Human Caused
- Agency Removal
- Natural
- Undetermined

1999-2008 vs 2009-2018
Proportion of Agency Removal Mortalities over two Decades

- Anthropogenic Food
- Augmentation
- Livestock Depredation
- Other
- Property Damage

1999-2008: [Bar chart data]
2009-2018: [Bar chart data]
Grizzly Bear Mortalities and the type of Livestock Depredations over two Decades

- Cattle/Calf
- Chickens
- Sheep
- Pigs
- Llamas

Grizzly Bear Mortalities and the type of Defense of Life causes

- **Hunting**
  - 1999-2008: Orange
  - 2009-2018: Yellow

- **Frontcountry**
  - 1999-2008: Orange
  - 2009-2018: Yellow

- **Backcountry**
  - 1999-2008: Orange
  - 2009-2018: Yellow
Priority Issues

1. Shooting Related
2. Automobile Strikes
3. Train Strikes
4. Site-Related Conflict: Waste Management & Chickens
Overarching Recommendations

1. Establish long-term working groups around each focal area to fully develop effective and practical solutions.
   • Include representatives from the most pertinent agencies
   • Consider representatives from external groups/industries where relevant

2. Coordinate strategies among ecosystems where trends overlap.
Shooting-Related

• Mortalities due to mistaken identity or defense of life may be reduced with information and education programs targeted at bird and rifle hunters and recreationists.
• Programs should attempt to increase:
  • awareness of where grizzly bear country is and where there is potential for an encounter;
  • increase the knowledge of bear behavior;
  • bear spray usage in these groups.
Shooting-Related

1. Target I & E Programs at Bird Hunters & Rifle Hunters
   a. Videos
      a. Review existing videos for effectiveness. Determine if additional videos are needed. Add to IGBC and agency websites.
      b. Play bear safety video at FWP regional offices for customer viewing.
   b. Hunter Education
      a. Offer bear spray workshop for hunters.
      b. Add bear safety to the Master Hunter class.
Shooting-Related

2. Bear Spray
   a. Continue and expand bear spray subsidies by agencies.
   b. Investigate bear spray rental programs. How effective is this model and should IGBC encourage?
   c. Initiate a campaign on the importance of hunters carrying bear spray.
Automobile Strikes

- Automobile strikes will increase as grizzly bear distribution expands. There is much work to be done on this issue and significant room for improvement.
Automobile Strikes

1. Increase subcommittee engagement and support for scheduled MDT projects (Highway 93 north).
2. Support a NGO coalition to advocate for effective wildlife connectivity measures (see 1-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition).
3. Increase coordination with MDT and others on research evaluating effective mitigation measures.
   • Identify information and research needs.
4. Develop highway signs to increase driver awareness of the potential for grizzly bear crossings.
5. Continue road kill pickup.
   • Add compost sites where needed.
• 2019 was a particularly high mortality year for railroad-related mortalities and the issue received significant attention from the public. Historically, train-related mortalities have comprised a much smaller portion of mortalities.

• As the population continues to recover, we anticipate an increasing trend in railroad mortalities, and therefore merits attention by the subcommittee.
Railroad Related

1. Conduct a review of warning systems and other mitigation tools used in other areas.
2. Develop system for evaluating and maintaining fencing to exclude livestock from railway.
3. Notify railroads that we are developing a working group on this issue.
Site-Related Conflict

- Grizzly bears are involved in many types of site conflicts, however the working group selected waste management issues and chickens because of the potential for prevention of these types of conflict.
Site-Related Conflict

1. Provide bear-proof containers to all residences in grizzly bear habitat
   • Gain buy-in from all waste management companies by inviting participation in WG
   • Prioritize focal areas to start campaign, move to other areas later
   • Explore funding options
   • Explore use of regulations and enforcement

2. Chickens
   • Develop billboards to increase awareness of chickens as an attractant and tools to prevent conflict
   • Investigate how to work with local stores to increase awareness and prevention
   • Explore use of regulations and enforcement

3. Improve messaging on the importance of reporting bear conflicts