

BITTERROOT ECOSYSTEM SUBCOMMITTEE
*** * * Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee* * ***
ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT FOR FY 2014

Julie King – Chair, Bitterroot Forest Supervisor
 Tod McKay – Co-Chair, Bitterroot PAO, committee I&E

The Bitterroot Ecosystem Committee of the IGBC has revived our mission and had a spring and fall meeting this past year. Following are some activities we are working on and items we have accomplished.

ACTION ITEM*	**STATUS OR ACCOMPLISHMENT*****
Reviving, revalidating our 5 year Action plan	The committee spent some time addressing the five year action plan and we had some edits and added some action items to accomplish the tasks.
Assembling an I&E outreach committee	This task is in progress. Tod McKay will be the chair of the committee and he has contacted some folks internally and externally to be on the committee and started drafting some action items to accomplish.
We routed a template for signs and put in an order for other ecosystems	Ellen Davis sent around a template for bear aware signage and a subsequent order for signs that enabled us all to get a better deal on the costs.
Recognition for trash disposal companies implementing bear cans	The committee is in the process of recognizing the efforts of Felstet Disposal and the Ninemile Working group on efforts to improve sanitation and bear safe containers for mechanized trash disposal. Chuck Keller of the Bear Aware Trailer is also being recognized by the group for his I&E efforts across many communities.
Black Bear Report <i>2015 completed</i>	A Black Bear Report is in the works by Chris Servheen USFWLS to identify key linkage area/opportunities on the landscape for large predator movement. This includes a report on effectiveness of wildlife bridges/tunnels under roads. It should be available this spring
Grizzly Bear Verification Protocols	The committee is taking some time to educate ourselves on the verification protocols for Grizzly Bear Occupancy and we are addressing concerns and process questions on installation of hair snares/cameras etc. in wilderness.
WMI - I&E Efforts	Colleen Matt is maintaining a WMI I&E website to keep track of IGBC committee notes and offers educational signs, postcards and videos for Bear Aware and predator aware use.
Bitterroot Bears	A website is forming called "Bitterroot Bears" which will be similar to the "Five Valley Bears" website in Missoula. This will be a great resource to the I&E committee and can be utilized by the public.

Map of the Ecosystems	Ellen Davis produced a map for use by the committee of the greater IGBC Ecosystems which we can refer to in working across boundaries.
Map of "hotspots"	We are working on producing a map of the Bitterroot Ecosystem which will show areas that we consistently have predator activities and then we will develop a strategy of how to address them.
Grizzly Bear Conservation Fund	We updated our wish list for the Grizzly Bear Conservation Fund brochure
New Member recruitment	We are looking at the representation on the Bitterroot Ecosystem IGBC and have identified some area to recruit such as an outfitter and Guide Rep, also perhaps reps from entities such a Vital Ground, the Friends of Lolo Peak and potentially from the Center for Biodiversity.