

Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak IGBC Subcommittee**10/30/17 meeting in Sandpoint, ID**

Notes

Wayne Kasworm – Grizzly Bear Research and Monitoring Update

- See handout
- Mortalities: 1 in the Selkirks in BC (self defense – bow hunters). 1 in the US Selkirks (misidentification – see Brian Johnson’s update below). No known mortalities in the CYE.
- Telemetry issues – GPS collars typically download via link to a laptop in the plane. New Iridium collars link to sat phone system and download every couple days w/ access via email. Trying the new system on males, although poor success. There has been mixed results in other ecosystems.
- Testing habitat quality maps (Resource Selection Function) – National Forests w/in the SCYE now have these to test. Open roads (negative), open canopy (positive), and greenness/deciduous veg (positive) drove the model. Three areas: Selkirk, Yaak, Cabinets. There wasn’t enough collar data in the Cabinets, so the Selkirk info was used to develop a model for the Cabinets and the collar data from the Cabinets was used to test it. Maps are split by male/female, and season (spring/summer/fall). Model did not include huckleberry data.
- Michael Proctor is working on a huckleberry map.
- BC looking to end the grizzly bear hunt; Auditor General report noted that habitat impacts are a concern.

Kim Annis – Montana, Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bear Management Update

- Did bear/bear spray trainings, visited festivals, school presentations, Libby STEM program, local newspaper articles, and fairs.
- Public Sanitation – Upper West Kootenai and West Kootenai sites will be consolidated at a new West Kootenai site. No solution yet for Rexford or Yaak Hill. Old KOA site north of Troy removed. Lincoln County landfill not resolved. Little Joe’s and Halfway House sites removed and consolidated at the new Troy Mine Rd site. No solution yet for McGinnis Meadows site.
- Conflicts: busy spring, quiet summer/fall. 25 electric fences loaned, over 20 containers loaned, 2 grizzly bear captures (sisters), 5 black bear captures.
- Bear 821: Subadult Male. Got into bird feed in the Yaak plus other incidents. Livestock dogs drove him off (17 Mile area), after which he cross the Kootenai River and into the Cabinets.
- Bear 722: Adult Male. Captured in 2016. Iridium collar failed.
- Bear 922: Subadult male. Yaak native captured in Oct 2016. In 2017 walked to the Selkirks, then killed in BC in September.
- Bears 1026 and 1028. Subadult sisters from Creston, BC. Captured in the valley around homes (Creston). Took preventive actions and moved them to the MT border. Ended up near homes in the Yaak. Captured in the Yaak, one sent back to BC (already collared), and the other collared and released in Spread Creek in the Yaak (subsequently went back to Creston area). New Iridium

collars have “GeoFences” that can be programmed and once the bear crosses the “fence” then the rate of data collection increases. This helps pinpoint where bears are spending time (potential conflict sites).

- IGBC I&E FY18 Grant Program. \$36K available, to be split between ecosystems. Kim has received 1 proposal (Selkirks) so far for the SCYE. Proposals due to Kim by 11/3/17.

Brian Johnson – Idaho Department of Fish and Game Bear Management Update

- 1 Mortality in the Selkirks part of the US. Misidentification (black bear hunters). The hunters reported it and then led Brian Johnson back to it. Male bear. Charged under State laws rather than ESA. Both hunters pled guilty. \$1000 each, licenses revoked until they go back to hunter education, and must give presentation to youth regarding properly identifying your target.

Chris Savage – IGBC Executive Committee Update

- Summer meeting was in Choteau, MT
- NCDE – growth/expansion into the plains from the East Front. Low tolerance w/in the communities
- Finalized IGBC Charter – Chris sent it out
- 5-year Plan – discussion, SCYE submitted comments
- Mountain bike/bear encounter sign now available
- Voted to delist NCDE – USFWS to propose to delist in summer 2018, then 1 year to finalize

2017 Accomplishments/2018 Planned Actions

- Most agencies in the SCYE have already submitted their 2017 Accomplishments and some 2018 Planned Actions to Jeremy Anderson, however, there are still some blank cells in the tables.
- Subcommittee began review of the Overarching Goals table and making edits to Objectives, Indicators, Responsibility, and Strategies with the help of Colleen Matt. Also entered additional 2017 Accomplishments and 2018 Planned Actions.
- To do: Subcommittee to check with Dan Dinning on whether to include more county commissioners on the subcommittee.
- Subcommittee to continue reviewing the tables and providing edits to Jeremy. Due 11/7 to Jeremy so that it can be submitted to Chris Smith on 11/9.

Public Comments

- Paul Fielder – please look at the Recovery Plan & goals to see if achievable – look at new science
- Discussion: Future presentation at a subcommittee meeting - how to go about updating the Recovery Plan.

- Tim (?) – Rock Creek sanitation site, is it secure? (Kim Annis said “Yes”). Does this subcommittee handle addressing the remanded decision on uplisting? (Chris/Wayne responded that USFWS will revisit the issue).

Next Meeting

- Workshop for the Subcommittee on 3/7/18
- Next regular meeting on 4/10/18 in WA (Usk, WA @ the wellness center? – reserve conference room?)

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