



Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee  
Summer Meeting Notes  
June 16-17, 2015  
Many Glacier Hotel, Glacier National Park



**Welcome & Introductions:** IGBC Chair Tammy Whittington opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to Glacier National Park and the IGBC summer meeting. Superintendent Jeff Mow welcomed the group as well and expressed how excited he and his staff were to host the IGBC. Executive Committee Members and those representing Executive Members present at the meeting include the following:

Tammy Whittington, Jim Unsworth, Rich Hannan (representing Matt Hogan), Kristine Lee (representing Nora Rasure), Becki Heath, Bob Everitt, Patti Koppenol (representing Dave Schmid), Ken McDonald, Jodi Bush, Karen Taylor-Goodrich, Rick Hotaling, Claudia Regan, Cheri Hamilton (representing Dan Jiron), Paul Frame, Scott Talbott, Ed Schriever (representing Virgil Moore).

IGBC Advisors Chris Servheen, Scott Jackson, and Frank T. van Manen, IGBC I&E Chair Gregg Losinski and IGBC Executive Coordinator Ellen Davis were also present.

**ACTION ITEMS/DECISIONS:** (Note: Additional discussion with greater detail is discussed in agenda topics below these action and decision items).

**\*Decision – A motion was passed by the executive committee to post IGBC PowerPoint and other presentations in a timely manner in pdf format on the IGBC web site following IGBC meetings. It was also agreed that we would live web cast or video tape our meetings in the future for posting on the web and we will do our best to set up the technology to accomplish this at our next meeting in Missoula Dec 8-9, 2015.**

**\*Decision – A motion was passed to approve Wildlife Management Institute priority projects as presented for FY16.**

**\*Decision – It was requested that WMI present the new IGBC website at the winter meeting.**

**\*Decision- A motion was passed approving the IGBC FY16 Budget.**

**\*Decision – Chris Servheen will work on the “All Ecosystems” wording in the IGBC Five-Year Action Plan to address Ken McDonald’s concerns as well as work with the SCY ecosystem subcommittee on updates to their section of the plan by the end of July. Once Chris has drafted new wording and actions, he will send out to the IGBC executive committee for review and approval.**

**IGBC I&E Update – Gregg Losinski**

Gregg gave an overview of the IGBC I&E program for 2014 (see posted PowerPoint presentation). Several other topics of discussion included the following:

- Media awareness of bear issues, lots of news stories being circulated.
- The disturbance at the recent YES meeting was purposely orchestrated and intentionally staged.

- There is a lot of value with our NGO partners and we all win with a spirit of cooperation and honesty.
- The presentations shown at IGBC meetings become public information and need to be available to the public on the IGBC web site. If data is marked preliminary, then it is preliminary and should be taken as such in the public arena.
- This will put more responsibility on presenter since some data presented is not always ready for public consumption.
- This may result in less depth to some discussions

**North Cascades Ecosystem Restoration Plan** – Karen Taylor-Goodrich (see PowerPoint presentation).

The National Park Service and the US Fish & Wildlife Service began preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in February for the North Cascades Ecosystem to assess grizzly bear recovery options. The Record of Decision (ROD) is expected to be completed in the fall of 2017.

**Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) Update** – Chris Smith (see PowerPoint presentation)

Chris talked about the cooperative agreement with IGBC. WMI inherited the IGBC website and it has been limited because of the content management system. With the invitation from WG&F to migrate the IGBC website to their server, things should improve quite a bit. WMI expects the migration to occur early this fall.

- FY2016 Projects Approved:
  - Coordination w/subcommittees
  - Disseminating information on how to fill inert bear spray canisters
  - Move IGBC website to WG&F server and update content.
  - Completion of an interactive food storage map
  - Administer new I&E grant proposals from ecosystems

Other FY 2016 Potential Projects include:

- Living with Grizzlies Guide
  - Focused version of "Living with Predators"
  - Feature IGBC certified products
  - More than a brochure
- Additional Videos:
  - Carcass Management
  - Chicken Coop Protection
  -

**\*Decision: The Executive Committee approved the FY16 projects as presented. WMI will present the new IGBC website at the Winter IGBC meeting**

**Update on Grizzly Bear Conservation Fund (GBCF)** – Ellen Davis

Ellen has not had much success at this point. She will make additional contacts with NFWF to see if there is an opportunity and funding available and visit with the G&A folks.

**Decision – Ellen will make contact with NFWF, Sandy Frost and R-1 G&A folks to see if an opportunity and funding are available to initiate an agreement with money from BNSF for grizzly bear mitigation efforts in concert with ongoing FWS efforts. This is part of a bigger plan to establish a Grizzly Bear Conservation Fund (GBCF) with NFWF and the IGBC by laying the ground work and having the Forest Service initiate an agreement due to an**

**immediate need and an opportunity. The hope is once this agreement's in place, the other IGBC members will want to jump on board as part of the bigger effort. )**

**Review and discuss proposed IGBC Expenditure Report on Agency Costs for Grizzly Bear Recovery and Management** – Tammy Whittington

Tammy presented the draft expenditure report for review and discussion. She is seeking comments and edits. Rich Hannan (FWS) approved of the draft and noted that this is a growth ball park estimate and not an audit. It is a higher level estimation not "down in the weeds" recovery costs displaying the big picture for agencies responsible for grizzly bear recovery.

There was additional talk about updating the document on a 5-year cycle, maybe in conjunction with the 5-year IGBC action plan.

Tammy will present the updated version with the FY 15 estimates at the Winter IGBC meeting in December.

**Decision: A motion was made and passed by the IGBC Executive Committee to move forward with continued work on the expenditure report. Tammy and Mike will send out a message with sidebars for real time data and response dates.**

**IGBC Five-Year Work Plan** - Ellen Davis

Ellen presented the IGBC 5-Year Action Plan with updates she had received from the IGBC subcommittee chairs. She displayed the edits for each ecosystem on the screen. The group tried to add and work through additional edits and made some progress but because of the concerns Ken McDonald had with the wording and content of some of the ecosystems, it became too difficult to continue the process.

**Decision: Chris Servheen will work on the "All Ecosystems" wording in the IGBC 5-Year Action Plan as well as work with the SCY ecosystem subcommittee on updates to their section of the plan by the end of July. Once Chris has drafted new wording and action items, he will send out to the IGBC executive committee for review and approval.**

**IGBC Bear-Resistant Products Testing and Certification Program** – Scott Jackson

As a follow-up task from the winter meeting, where a request was made to put more resources into this popular and growing program to pay for added administrative assistance, efforts at developing additional revenue sources were explored. The Executive Committee felt that this IGBC certification program should recover costs and strive to pay for itself through generation of testing fees, etc.

Action Taken: The Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center (GWDC), the facility that handles the testing of products, once again stepped up to help make this program successful and sustainable by IGBC. The result of these efforts is that MOUs were developed between the Forest Service, Wildlife Management Institute and GWDC to increase testing fees and put those funds toward the product testing and administration components of this program. In addition to their other program assistance, GWDC contributed \$5,000 of seed money to help offset administrative costs of the program. With the increase of testing fees, it is hopeful the program can be self-sustaining and continue to be successful.

Scott noted that the GWDC has been a long-term and valuable partner in this program and would like to recognize them at the winter meeting in December.

**Decision: The Executive Committee agreed to recognize the GWDC at the winter meeting.**

**Population Monitoring** – Rick Mace (see PowerPoint Presentation)

Rick gave an update to the executive committee on the known fate (collaring method) population monitoring in the NCDE.

**Grizzly Bear Population Expansion** – Mike Madel (see PowerPoint presentation)

Grizzly Bears continue to expand out on the Rocky Mountain Front. Females are teaching their offspring to use part of their home range and then the young bears expand out further on their own

**Conflict Management in the NCDE** – Tim Manley (see PowerPoint Presentation)

Tim reported on the conflict we continue to see related to chickens, garbage, pet food, etc., and an update in grizzly bear augmentation efforts.

**The Evolution of Bear Management in GNP** – John Waller (see PowerPoint Presentation)

John gave an overview of the evolution of grizzly bear management in Glacier National Park. He noted that in the early bear management of the 1920's, we were feeding bears in the Park. People started getting hurt and bears started to become more aggressive. By the 1930's, Park officials recognized that feeding bears was probably not a good idea but not a lot changed.

In 1967 however, the Park got very serious about bear management after the death of 2 young woman.

Today, Glacier National Park strictly enforces the "no feed" bear policy and advocates the use of bear spray for all visitors hiking and camping in and around the Park.

**Delisting Update in YES and the NCDE Ecosystems** – Rich Hannan

Rich gave an update on the delisting process for the Yellowstone and NCDE Ecosystems. Bears are leading the way and recovering themselves he noted. We have more bears on the ground than ever.

The USFWS is exploring the viability of initiating a proposal to delist the grizzly bear. There is nothing imminent however. There is a healthy viable and sustainable population on the ground. No decision has been made about moving forward with the delisting rule. That discussion would need to occur soon however, since the process takes about 18 months.

**Public Comments:**

Bethany Cotton, Wild Earth Guardians – There is a big problem with a 22 year old recovery plan. The IGBC Executive Committee needs ESA training. A DPS (distinct population segment) cannot be delisted one population at a time.

Lorna Smith, Western Wildlife Outreach (WWO) – WWO is science based and a non-advocacy organization.

WWO has been managing the North Cascades bear trailer for years with great success.

The FWS terminated our agreement and we want the IGBC to step in and resolve this issue.

WWO has 5 signed contracts this year to use the trailer

Lorna read the origin of the North Cascades bear trailer dated August 19, 2011 and the description of how the bear trailer was to be used and managed. She wants further discussion to take place.

Brian Peck, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) – Brian wants public comment during discussions and presentations of IGBC meetings and not at the tail end. He also noted that web castings are a great idea.

There was additional discussion by folks regarding the high cost of our summer meeting locations and to consider having them at cheaper locations.

**Winter IGBC Meeting**

December 8-9, Missoula, MT – Location to be determined.

**\*\*\*END\*\*\***