



**Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee**  
**Winter Meeting Notes**  
December 12-13, 2017  
Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown, Missoula, MT



**Welcome & Introductions:** - IGBC Chair Jim Unsworth asked for introductions around the table and the room and welcomed Executive Committee members and the public to the IGBC winter meeting at the Holiday Inn, Downtown Missoula.

Members and those representing Executive Members and Ecosystem Subcommittee Chairs present at the meeting include the following:

Jim Unsworth, Matt Hogan, Rick Hotaling, Christine Dawe (for Dave Schmid), Mike Wrigley (for Pat Walsh), Dave Rosenkrance, Ed Shriever, Claudia Regan, ML Smith, Tim Woolley, Kimberly Nelson (for Chuck Mark), Chris Savage, Jim Williams, Martha Williams, John Waller (for Jeff Mow)

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

**ACTION ITEMS/DECISIONS**

**Decision: Martha Williams, Director, MTFWP, was nominated and voted in by unanimous vote as the new IGBC Vice-Chair.**

Ed Schiever made a motion to accept the nomination of Martha and Tim Woolley seconded the motion. The executive committee unanimously voted to approve.

Jim Unsworth completed his two-year term as Chair and Matt Hogan moved into the Chair position from Vice-Chair.

**Decision: A decision was made to hold our IGBC summer meeting on the west side of the NCDE ecosystem this year. A suggestion was made to see if there were accommodations available in Polson.**

**Who:** Ellen will start working on this to see what lodging facilities are available to accommodate the IGBC summer meeting.

**Update: Ellen was able to secure a block of government rate rooms and conference room at the KwaTaqNuk Resort and Casino in Polson, MT. The summer meeting dates are June 19-21. Ellen will be sending out a message as the time get closer on meeting details and making reservations.**

**Decision: Standardization of Food Storage Orders: State definition of the problem, scale of the issue and put into matrix for executive committee to review by summer meeting.**

**Who:** Dave Schmid

**Decision: When the Conservation Strategy is completed for the NCDE, set up a conference call with the Executive Committee to approve/not approve the strategy.**

**Who:** Ken McDonald will provide the NCDE CS to Ellen to send out for review for a couple weeks prior to discussion. Once Ellen has received the CS strategy and sent it out, she will schedule a conference call to discuss.

**Action: Between now and the June summer meeting get the IGBC I&E subcommittee up and functioning again in accordance with the IGBC Charter. Set up a conference call with Matt, Martha and Ellen to decide how to proceed.**

**Who:** Ellen Davis

**Update: We have selected Kim Annis, MTFWP as the new IGBC I&E Chair and Lori Roberts, MTFWP as the Vice-Chair. We have our first meeting via conference call scheduled in March to discuss finalizing the Information & Education (I&E) section of the IGBC Five-Year Plan goals and objectives as well as work on long-term strategic planning. The Executive I&E committee is made up of the Chair, Vice-Chair, I&E Chairs from each of the ecosystems and Ellen Davis, IGBC Executive Coordinator.**

## **AGENDA TOPICS**

**Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST)** – Frank van Manen  
IGBST Research & Monitoring Summary 2017 – Frank gave a PowerPoint presentation to the group. He noted there are 16 members on the study team.

### **Overview:**

- Population estimates and trend,
- Occupancy by females with offspring and;
- Mortalities and mortality rates.

He reminded the group that these are preliminary results.

### **Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Monitoring**

Population monitoring and trend. Number of females w/cubs using Chao2 estimator.

### **Observation flights**

- 54 aerial observations
- 184 survey hours
- Round 1, 54 units, Round 2, 40 units
- 369 groups
- 510 grizzly bears

50 females w/cubs

- 180 observations
- 50 observation flights
- 65 other aerial
- 58 unique female w/cubs
- 57 in DMA (Demographic Monitoring Area)

1983-2017 increase in trend

### **2017- 46 mortalities in DMA**

- 39 human caused

- 7 natural
- 4 undetermined

**Food Monitoring**

- Cutthroat Trout
- Cutworm Moths

**Summary**

- High count for females w/cubs n=58
- Population estimate 718
- No evidence of bears leaving core ecosystem.
- Constant since 2005.

**Google IGBST to see additional information from this slide or contact Frank van Manen.**

**Potential paths for male-mediated gene flow between the NCDE & GYE grizzly bear populations** – PowerPoint Presentation - Cecily Costello

- Dispersal is very male biased
- Females stay close to their home ranges

Contact Cecily Costello to see the entire paper.

**IGBC Five-Year Plan 2018-2022** – Chris Smith

Review and finalize “overarching issues” portion of the plan

The executive committee went through each section of the Five-Year Plan starting with the executive committee section and ending with the subcommittee’s sections. The process was led by Chris with the document appearing on the screen and the overall arching goals and objectives (Executive Committee responsibility) and each ecosystem section (Subcommittee Chairs responsibility) was reviewed and edited via computer and completed for a final product. The plan will be used each year as a guide for reporting out accomplishments and program of work and updated annually as needed.

**NCDE Accomplishment Report FY17 and Program of Work FY18** –Jim Williams (**See PowerPoint Presentation**)

Population Trend & Monitoring Report 2017 (See PowerPoint Presentation) – Cecily Costello

- 28 known mortalities – unusual, skewed towards males
- Location map

**Bitterroot Accomplishment Report FY17 and Program of Work FY18** –Kimberly Nelson (**See Handout**)

**North Cascades Report FY17 and Program of Work FY18** –Karen Taylor Goodrich- (**See PowerPoint**)

**Selkirk Cabinet-Yaak Report FY17 and Program of Work FY18** –Chris Savage- (**See Handout, ask Jeremy or Chris for handout**)

- Augmentation & Research – Wayne Kasworm (**See PowerPoint Presentation**)

**IGBC Information & Education Update** – Gregg Losinski

# FINAL Winter Meeting Notes 03/20/18 ed

Gregg also gave an I&E update including a summary on the IGBC I&E funding that was awarded to the grizzly bear ecosystems for FY18

<b>FY18 IGBC Information, Education &amp; Outreach Grants</b>		
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Submitting Organization</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
<b>All Ecosystems</b>		
Grizzly Bear Conflict Reduction Field Technician	Defenders of Wildlife	\$ 2,200
<b>Bitterroot</b>		
Bitterroot National Forest Front-Country Bear Ranger	Bitterroot NF	\$ 3,500
Hunt & Fish Idaho Expo	IDF&G-Clearwater Region	\$ 1,000
Lolo National Forest Bear Ranger	Lolo NF	\$ 1,500
<b>North Cascades</b>		
Grizzly Bear Outreach Project	Western Wildlife Outreach	\$ 2,500
<b>Cabinet-Yaak</b>		
Bonnors Ferry Bear Ranger	Idaho Panhandle NF	\$ 2,500
Coalition for Recovery: Increasing community engagement and decreasing conflict potential in the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem	Lolo NF	\$ 1,500
Selkirk Grizzly Bear Education and Law Enforcement Project (Griz Habitat Signs)	IDF&G	\$ 1,000
<b>Selkirk</b>		
Identifying Knowledge Gaps in the Selkirk Mountains Ecosystem; to enhance grizzly bear outreach efforts	Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders	\$ 2,250
Western Wildlife Outreach Bear Safety and Information/Selkirks Ecosystem	Western Wildlife Outreach	\$ 2,500
Bear Spray Outreach in Washington State	Defenders of Wildlife	\$ 700
<b>Yellowstone</b>		
Promoting Human Bear Coexistence in Southwest Montana	Beaverhead-Deerlodge & Custer-Gallatin NF	\$ 5,000
Bridging the Gap – Living with Grizzly Bears Outside of Recovery Zones	Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest	\$ 1,500
<b>Northern Continental Divide</b>		
Flathead NF Bear Rangers & Bear Awareness Workshop	Flathead NF	\$ 1,500
Design of Permanent NCDE Trailhead Signage	Flathead NF	\$ 2,000
Lolo NF Bear Ranger/ Educational Materials	Lolo NF	\$ 850
Temporary Trailhead Signs on Flathead NF	Flathead NF	\$ 500
Ferndale & Condon Bear Fairs	Swan Valley Connections	\$ 250
CSKT 2018 Birds & Bears Festival	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	\$ 250
Prairie Grizzly Education on the RMF	MFWP	\$ 1,500
Bridging the Gap – Living with Grizzly Bears Outside of the Recovery Zone	Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest	\$ 1,500

\$  
36,000

**AWARDS**

IGBC grizzly bear paw print awards were presented to the following:

- Jim Unsworth as the outgoing IGBC Chair
- Tony Hamilton, outgoing Executive Committee Member
- Becki Heath, outgoing Executive Committee Member
- Gregg Losinski, outgoing IGBC I&E Chair and Yellowstone Ecosystem I&E Chair

All of these folks are retiring or will retire in the near future and all were recognized and honored for their many years of service and contributions to the IGBC.

**IGBC Summer Meeting, June 19-21, KwaTaqNuk Resort & Casino,  
Polson, MT**

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