



Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee Meeting Wednesday, October 28, 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING

Participating Agencies

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Park Service

Grand Teton National Park

Yellowstone National Park

U.S. Geological Survey

Interagency Grizzly Bear
Study Team

Bureau of Land Management Idaho, Montana, Wyoming

Forest Service

Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF

Bridger-Teton NF

Caribou-Targhee NF

Custer National Forest

Gallatin National Forest

Shoshone National Forest

States and Counties

Idaho Department of Fish and
Game

Montana Department of Fish,
Wildlife and Parks

Wyoming Game and Fish
Department

Idaho Association of Counties

Montana Association of
Counties

Wyoming County
Commissioners Association

Indian Tribes

Shoshone Bannock
Northern Arapaho
Eastern Shoshone

Chair:

Tricia O'Connor
Forest Supervisor
Bridger-Teton National Forest
US Forest Service
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YES Members will receive a link to join the meeting from GoToWebinar. Members of the public can register here prior to the start of the meeting: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4776163472407590672>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions to join. Public attendees will be able to see and hear the presentations and discussions, but we will not be able to accommodate verbal public comments. If you do have a comment on the YES Spring 2020 meeting presentations and discussion, please submit it in writing to marinda.rogers-gardner@usda.gov by 5PM on 10/29 to be included in the notes of the meeting.

Time	Topics
1:45 PM	Pre-Meeting Technical Test - We ask that YES members and presenters join the webinar early to ensure that audio and camera connections are working.
2:00 PM	Webinar Orientation – David Diamond, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee
2:05 PM	Welcome -Jim White, YES Vice-Chair, Idaho Fish and Game <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda Review • YES member information sharing / discussion
2:15 PM	Conservation Strategy Chapter 3 Developed Sites Update - Jim White, YES Vice-Chair and Hilary Cooley, US Fish and Wildlife Service
2:25 PM	Information, Education, Outreach Subcommittee Update – Danielle Oyler, Montana Fish Wildlife, and Parks
2:35 PM	Advanced Demographic Monitoring Approach – Frank Van Manen, IGBST
3:30 PM	BREAK
3:45 PM	IGBST Annual Report - Frank Van Manen, IGBST
4:00 PM	Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction - Ken McDonald, MTFWP • Panel Discussion with members of the Council (Trina Jo Bradley, Caroline Byrd, Erin Edge, Robyn King, Chuck Roady) • Reference: Recommendations and Input on the Future of Grizzly Bear Management and Conservation in Montana, 9/8/20
4:40 PM	Plans for Workshop – Jim White, YES Vice-Chair, Idaho Fish and Game <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference: Recommendations for reducing bear-human conflicts and grizzly bear mortalities in the Yellowstone Ecosystem, 7/19/20
4:50 PM	Instructions for Public Comment
5:00 PM	ADJOURN



Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee Meeting Thursday, October 29, 2020 VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Join the meeting with the same information as the previous session, YES Members use their link, and members of the public register here

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4776163472407590672> (you only need to register once). The meeting will begin in GoToWebinar, before breaking up into workgroups in three separate Zoom meetings.

The intent of the workshops is to engage YES committee members, agency staff, partners and the public in a facilitated conversation with overall objectives of:

- Ensure the recommendation statement is clearly defined
- Share current successes that address the recommendation and who is involved (and if funding is needed, how that has been achieved)
- Develop goals for this recommendation that are achievable over a five year period. For all of these, the goal is to reduce human/bear conflict. What are more specific goals for this particular recommendation?
- Develop specific actions to meet the recommendation and goal

Realistically, we are not likely to get to all of these in our short time and so these workshops are intended to provide a forum for dialogue specific to these topics and begin to formulate an action plan. The outcome will be information that will feed into YES action plans formulated by YES members and agency staff.

Time			
8:30 AM	Welcome, Jim White, YES Vice-Chair, Idaho Fish and Game		
8:35 AM	Recap of the Conflict Reduction Report, Technical Team Members Please come prepared with clarifying questions.		
8:55 AM	Instructions for workshop sessions (including details on how to join the separate Zoom calls)		
9:00 AM	BREAK (Reconvene in three separate Zoom meetings)		
9:15 AM	1. Backcountry and Hunting Related Conflicts	2. Front Country Conflicts and Community Planning	3. Livestock Conflicts and Producer Outreach
10:45 AM	BREAK		
11:00 AM	Reconvene in GoToWebinar; Recap		
11:30 AM	ADJOURN		



Background: A technical team working under the guidance of YES has developed a draft document **Recommendations for reducing bear-human conflicts and grizzly bear mortalities in the Yellowstone Ecosystem: a report to the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee**. This report has synthesized information from agencies and the public into recommendations under 5 broad categories. Three of these categories lend themselves to further action by YES and other partners. These include Backcountry and Hunting Related Conflicts, Front Country Conflicts and Community Planning and Livestock Conflicts and Producer Outreach. For this workshop, we will focus on the technical team's highest priority for each broad category.

Workshop 1 - Backcountry and Hunting Related Conflicts

Recommendation - Increase the availability of food and game carcass storage infrastructure in backcountry campsites

- There was broad support amongst the public and agencies for increasing the availability of backcountry food and game carcass storage infrastructure including food storage boxes and poles. This could be complicated by a lack of a consistent approach to food storage infrastructure within designated wilderness areas. Some National Forest units have been installing such structures for years, while others have considered this to be inconsistent with wilderness management.

Workshop 2 - Front Country Conflicts and Community Planning

Recommendation - Develop specific programs for municipalities and counties. This could include developing partnership funding with NGOs.

- The highest priority recommendation for this topic was developing specific programs for municipalities and counties. This is a broad statement that represents a combination of more specific recommendations, and largely includes the expansion of efforts that have already been successfully implemented in portions of the GYE. This includes working with local governments to implement ordinances for proper garbage storage, improving enforcement efforts for areas with ordinances already in place but where compliance is low, improving bear-resistant attractant storage structures on private and public lands, addressing issues of compatibility with waste hauling equipment and bear-resistant garbage containers, and expanding electric fencing at private lands with orchards and small livestock.

Workshop 3 - Livestock Conflicts and Producer Outreach

Recommendation - Emphasize prevention vs. reaction. This could include enlisting producers to be messengers and allies.

- This topic had the fewest recommendations for new actions that could be taken to reduce grizzly bear mortalities and conflicts. This is perhaps a recognition that it can be very difficult to prevent depredation conflicts from occurring in areas where grizzly bear habitat overlaps with livestock grazing areas, especially under free-range conditions typical of most public lands grazing allotments.
- Emphasizing prevention versus reacting to conflicts after they happen was the highest priority recommendation. However, no new methods for accomplishing this were identified. Thus, this recommendation involved the expansion of methods already being utilized, including the use of electric fencing where appropriate.