YES: Accomplishments & Program of Work Report

Jim White
Report Outline

➢ Conservation Strategy Chapter 3 Revisions
➢ Mortality Reduction Recommendations
➢ IGBST Annual Report
➢ Population Update
➢ Demographic Monitoring Improvements
Conservation Strategy Revisions:
Chapter 3 Habitat Standards

Final Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Area

Developed by the Interagency Conservation Strategy Team

Original 2007 Revised 2020
What Does CS Chapter 3 Address?

3 Habitat Standards:
- Livestock allotments
- Secure area (road effects)
- Developed Sites

No changes post 1998 without mitigation
What are We Doing?

Revising CS Chapt. 3 Developed Sites:

**Definition**
- Infrastructure for agency administration and visitor use

**Standards**
- Direction for making changes

**Application rules**
- When and where do constraints apply?
Why Change?

More bears
more places

Increased
visitation

Conservation
Strategy review

Need to retain
habitat

GYE
Developed
Sites
Proposal Foundation

Replace:

“Points” + Mitigation

with

“Footprints” + Administrative flexibility
Footprint Approach

Requires site maps and GIS algorithm
Advantage of Footprints

Replace “points” with “footprints”

- Defines a space for expansion
- Imposes measureable sideboards
- Provides management opportunity
- Accurate representation of human presence
Next Steps:

➢ **YES Review - ongoing**

➢ **Public Involvement**

➢ **YES Vote**
Mortality Reduction Recommendations

2019 Request from IGBC Chair
Prior Work

➢ 2009 YES Report
   ➢ 33 action items -> 11

➢ 2019 Current YES Effort
   ➢ 11 action items -> 5
Completed Steps

Tech Team Report 2019 – Prioritized 5 Topics

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<td>Backcountry &amp; Hunting</td>
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<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Frontcountry &amp; Community Planning</td>
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<td>YES</td>
<td>Livestock Conflicts &amp; Producer Outreach</td>
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<td>IGBC</td>
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- October 2019 YES Public Workshop, Cody WY
- July 2020 Tech Team Report (Revised)
- October 2020 YES Workshop, Virtual
Next Steps

Action Items For YES:

➢ Refine mortality reduction action items (Spring)

➢ Report projects to IGBC (Summer)
IGBST Annual Report: GYE Population Update

Population

- High females with cubs in Demographic Monitoring Area ($n = 58$)
- Population estimate = 727
- No major changes from previous years within DMA

Mortality

- Primary causes inside DMA: site conflict, self-defense, and livestock
- 2020 mortality rates in DMA
  - Below threshold for independent females (7.5%)
  - Below threshold for independent males (8.7%)
- 39% of 2020 mortalities occurred outside the DMA

Food supply

- Overall good food supply; good berry production
- Average whitebark pine cone production, better in the north
- High moth site use, bear activity into early October
Trend in annual estimates of females with cubs 1983-2020 (DMA)
Advancing Demographic Monitoring

➢ Chao2 re-assessment (report being finalized)
➢ Ongoing investigations of additional monitoring techniques (Integrated Population Models, vital rate analyses)
➢ Develop recommendations for updating IGBST monitoring protocol
Grizzly bear distributions and outlier observations
Questions?