



Spring NCDE Meeting Agenda

WHERE: Hampton Inn Kalispell, 1140 U.S. Hwy 2 West

WHEN: Tuesday, April 25, 2017

10:00	Welcome	Jim and Jeff
10:15	BIR Griz/human conflict prevention project	Lauren Monroe
10:45	NCDE 2017 Task List	Jim Williams / Chris Smith WMI
11:00	Region 4 Prairie Zone 3 Spring Plans	Ken McDonald Gary Bertellotti
11:45	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:15	USGS Bear Projects Update	Tabitha Graves
1:30	Science Team Update/Trend Monitoring	Cecily Costello
2:00	USFWS Business	Hilary Cooley / Jodi Bush
2:30	BREAK	
2:45	Glacier Park Business	Jeff Mow
3:15	Status of Forest Plan Revision/Amendments	Chip Weber
3:45	Education Updates	Chris Smith WMI
4:00	Public Comment	
4:15	Adjourn	

NOTES of Today's Meeting:

Need name tents for:

Chip Weber

Hilary Cooley

Ben Conard

JW sets ground rules, respect the opinions of others.

Dan Carney / BIR Introduces Lauren Monroe the Conflict Specialist with BIR

- *we realized we were spending more time on reacting instead of educating / preventing.

- *bear spray distribution for only \$5 and watch movie and spray inert. These monies came from a grant.

- *BABB Dump site has been closed last year

- *trying to get Kodiak cans installed for solid wastes. Working through shipping issues.

- *focusing on getting more ranchers involved by doing cost share

- *Portable electric fencing is also being installed in strategic locations.

- *trying to spike interest in nature once again.

- *social media being increased for education

Question: can the educational component also include the issue that the bear is sacred to the Blackfeet culture.

CHRIS SMITH & JIM WILLIAMS – NCDE TASK LIST, review see handout

6. Additional Subcommittee recommendations – please think about additional tasks if they are not covered in the first 5.

Informational: Ongoing habitat Work – review.

CHRIS SMITH gives Bio and review of roles of IGBC, NCDE, etc. prior to presentation

GOALS:

- *Have consistent language in all IGBC documents

- *Clarify agreed upon roles

- *Relationship Between Listing Status and other Features of Grizzly Bear Conservation (see handout insert in notes.)

IGBC CHARTER

Defines roles & responsibilities for the entire IGBC (replaces the MOU so it embraces all that are involved)

Organizational structure of the IGBC reviewed.

2018-2022 5-year IGBC Plan – set clear goals, objectives, strategies, indicators, roles & responsibilities, work plans. It is believed that the YES and the NCDE areas can be delisted separately. If USFWS loses the appeal, will have to re-examine. One judge said the USFWS can't carve out separate populations for delisting. Grizzly bears were listed many years before the DPS policy came out and they don't mesh together. There is nothing in the policy that says the policy must have multiple states. USFWS is arguing an appeal.

Question:

Conservation easements with the timber companies helps connectivity with grizzlies. Jim explained the benefit of working with the timber companies to help ensure habitat connectivity.

You talk about public comment? Is this committee driven by public comment? Is there a way to get the public on this committee? Is there a way to get a PRO & a CON Public figure on this committee? It's not just cultural concerns for the Tribes.

Ken McDonald / Gary Bertellotti – R4 Prairie Zone 3 Plans

Review of ESA & 4D Rule to demonstrate the sideboards that we are currently operating under in the pre-delisting world.

3-pronged approach

***We have cobbled together funding along with \$\$ from the USFWS for a Conrad based bear specialist to help to help with the human-bear conflicts occurring in the East.**

***Livestock carcass collection program are serving as an attractant to bears. So that there is someplace to put them in secured location.**

***Direction to staff to both existing staff & new staff to quickly and effectively respond and be more aggressive to seek authorization from the USFWS on a case-by-case basis. Really make it clear that we will be more responsive and more assertive.**

We are also pushing forward to seek delisting as this population is recovered.

Gary – We have been applying the 4D rules. Both bear conflict specialists will be working in concert to respond to conflict. We will try to do more preventive measures so that there will be less conflicts. Response time with the entire new crew will be lessened as more ground will be able to be covered. We will also be working with the local law enforcement agencies to educate them on how to respond as well so that we can get a consistent response that meets the needs of the public. We are increasing our educational programs to outlying towns to try to get everyone on the same page. There will be community outreach programs with Bear Aware to better inform on preventive measures. More responsive to partners on bear management and looking for resources from all to try to get those resources on the ground as quickly as possible. We are going to look at being more proactive to those that want to get involved to also be proactive.

We started a phone tree in the greater Valier area last August 2016. It's been working great to date by allowing people to share information about bears that are moving through so that people can take proper precautions. There have been requests to implement more phone trees.

Questions:

Ken – Zone 3 doesn't exist?? ---from a regulatory standpoint, it doesn't exist. Please review the 4D rules again CFR 17-40 – defines what authorizes take in the 48 states. A) grizzly bears may be taken in self-defense or defense of others, b) significant human safety, c) significant depredation as determined by USFWS.

Live captures of bear released unarmed in remote area---- those areas are becoming extremely hard to find. Where will you move them? ----- TBD

Bear going through town in the middle of the night, where do you draw the line? What is acceptable on a community level? ----- Yes, you're right that bears shouldn't be coming into town. We must do better education to remove attractants. Our concerns have been focused on bears near the schools, etc.

Blackfoot Tribe asks for money to be put into young Blackfoot range riders. They are not afraid of them!

When you capture a bear in a particular ecosystem are you required to move them back to the same ecosystem?

Grizzly bears walk thru Many Glacier campground, Whitefish, Kalispell all the time and they don't cause problems? It's a problem for the people like Valier that are not used to living with the bears.

Is there any way to make resources (electric fence) more readily available? Can all these government entities actually pool resources to get more on the ground?

What I'm hearing is that the value of a human life isn't as important as the life of a grizzly bear. Information, Education & Prevention is the key. If I kill a grizzly bear before it kills my grandchild will I need to hire a lawyer? ----when a grizzly bear is destroyed, the USFWS investigates. Experience has shown that if the investigation proves that self-defense was the key, lawyers have not been needed.

Seth Wilson has been working with stock growers to put together a listing of resources available.

What about the piles of dead animals that these bears have been conditioned to eat for over 30 years. There are many people out there that feel that the bears need these piles to eat so that they don't eat the people.

Not cleaning up your property is not the bears problem, it's the people's problem. People need to be responsible. People need to do their part.

Regarding bear attractants...we need to re-think bear attractants especially when we are speaking about the zone 3 area (middle of the prairie) It's a different life out there. We don't live in the Flathead Valley. Our needs are different.